PRIVATE EYE

No. 1014
Friday
3 Nov. 2000
£1.20

RAILTRACK BOSS SPELLS IT OUT

**Survey undertaken by NOP Market Research among 1,000 randomly selected customers. Interviews were conducted by telephone between 18 Nov 1999 and 10 Dec 1999. We reserve the right to decline to open an account for you. To maintain a quality service, calls may be monitored and/or recorded. Applicants must be 18 or over. All UK customer calls charged at local rate. *5% AER paid on balances over £5,000. Gross - rate before tax 4.89%. AER - the gross rate compounded. Interest variable and paid monthly. Some ATM owners may levy a charge. This service is not currently available to Apple Mac users, but will be shortly. For written details write to First Direct, Freepost, Leeds LS98 2RF. First Direct is a division of HSBC Bank plc.

new Bank Account

are you getting up to 5% AER?

first direct
Member HSBC Group

always great rates

Smell the flowers with up to 5% AER credit interest on your money*, rates that will still be around when others are a distant memory and - hey presto - you get free everyday banking too! Snuggle up to our neat fee free £500 overdraft and take advantage of our Savings Account and Credit Card too.

always people on the phone

Longing for the human touch? So do your banking with our friendly, professional people. 24 hours a day by telephone. No recorded messages, no key pad instructions, just a great personal banking service, so it's hardly surprising we're recommended every 4 seconds by our one million customers.**

always on-line

Prefer to do it yourself? You can do your banking on-line too, night and day, at no extra cost. Manage your own bank, in your own time, with everything at your fingertips. All the stuff - moving money about, paying bills, checking your balance and transactions - is easily accessed on your PC screen. It couldn't be easier or more secure - iii.co.uk certainly think so, voting us their best internet bank.

have it all!

Get the account info you want sent free to your mobile just when you need it. We make no charges for cash withdrawals at any ATM in the UK, and you can pay in by post or free at any HSBC Bank branch. All of which leaves you sitting rather pretty. So what's next...

call us any time on
0800 24 24 24
or visit us at
firstdirect.com

please quote ref: HP027

post to: First Direct, FREEPOST, Leeds LS98 2RF HP027

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Surname Forename(s)

UK Address

Postcode Telephone No

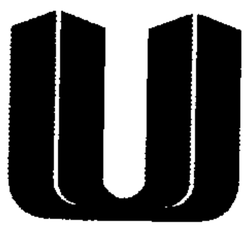
The Unilever Series enables Tate Modern to commission new works for its Turbine Hall, one of the largest single gallery spaces in the world.

Louise Bourgeois's towering achievements are the first works in the Unilever Series and have helped Tate Modern captivate over 3 million people. The exhibition ends on November 26, so if you haven't seen it yet, do visit soon.

© NewsCast

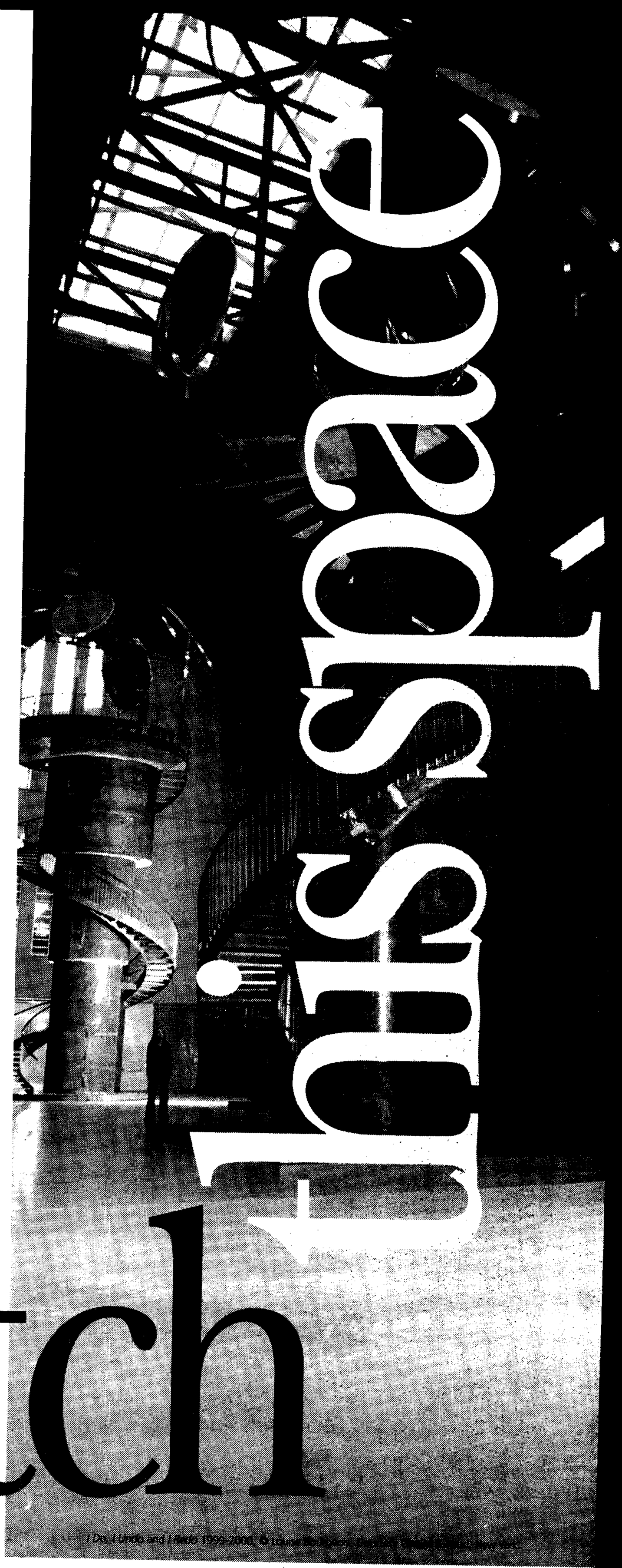
Juan Muñoz and his work *Towards the Corner*

While you're there, why not pop up to Level 4 and take a look at Spanish artist Juan Muñoz's *Towards the Corner*? Muñoz has just been commissioned to create the next in the five-year Unilever Series - his work will be on show in the Turbine Hall from June 2001.



The Unilever Series: whatever next?

Watch



I Do, I Undo and I Redo 1999-2001, © Louise Bourgeois. Photo: Stephen Pitkin/Pace Gallery, New York.

Now you can save much more than £25,000 on your mortgage.

Now you can:

SAVE MONEY	Our 5 year discount Current Account Mortgage, only available online, allows you to make overpayments that can save you £000's in interest**
SAVE TIME	Get a conditional mortgage offer online within 30 minutes†
SAVE EFFORT	Our CAM Calculator allows you to drop in your own details to see how much you can save
SAVE WORRY	Track the progress of your application online
SAVE COSTS	Our free in-house remortgage service can save you money if you don't want to move home††

First Active was voted the UK's best flexible mortgage lender* with its Current Account Mortgage – and for good reason. By overpaying as little as £2 a day, on a £75,000 mortgage, you could own your home in 20 years rather than 25 years. This could save you over £25,000.

But things just got even better. Now you can save time and effort too – by applying online. In fact the whole process can take as little as 30 minutes.†

0800 550 551

www.firstactive.co.uk

First Active

First Active Financial plc
Sir William Atkins House, Ashley Avenue, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5AS

PE 3/11/00

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Example shown: Based on a repayment loan from First Active Financial plc of £75,000, an interest rate of 7.74 % (APR 8.0%) and a mortgage term of 25 years. Monthly repayments of capital and interest are £506.00 per month gross. Total capital and interest repayable over the 25 years amounts to £189,903.73. An overpayment of £2 per day applied in full to prepay the mortgage loan would, assuming the rates of interest referred to above, reduce the total capital and interest repayable to £143,911.01 (a saving of £25,892.72) and the term would reduce by 5 years 10 months. Interest rate and APRs are variable and are subject to change from time to time. Lending is limited to up to 95% of First Active Financial plc's valuation of the property. A first legal charge over your property will be required as security. Other security may be required and security will be taken over your current account. All mortgages are subject to status, valuation and a minimum age of 18. Call us for a written free quotation. ††Legal fees are free when using First Active Financial plc's remortgage service (this service is not available in Northern Ireland and Scotland). Disbursements are payable by the customer. †30 minutes is the average time taken in a test environment for an applicant to apply for a mortgage with all details to hand and internet systems functioning normally. First Active Financial plc cannot guarantee these circumstances and cannot be held responsible if an application takes longer than 30 minutes. **0.49% discount for 5 years off First Active Financial plc's Standard Variable Rate (currently at 7.74% APR 7.9%). The discount 5 year product is only available online. Your telephone call may be recorded or monitored for training purposes. Telephone lines are open 8.00am - 8.00pm (weekdays), 9.00am - 2.00pm (Saturdays), 10.00am - 2.00pm (Sundays). First Active Financial plc subscribes to the Mortgage Code. Copies of the code are available on request. *First Active Financial plc was awarded the 'Best Flexible Mortgage Lender' 1999/2000 by Your Mortgage magazine, as voted by a panel of intermediaries. First Active Financial plc is a member of the Britannic plc financial services group.

Gnome

I AM delighted to announce that I have made a substantial offer that runs into several pence for the Daily Gnome's long-time competitor, the Faily Express.

Should my bid succeed, readers of that once-great newspaper can rest assured that under my stewardship, marked as it is with many years of greed and avarice, I shall do everything within my power to restore this much-loved tabloid to its future glory.

My team, in anticipation of the takeover bearing fruit, have already prepared our first historic issue.

Its headline will read:

EXPRESS TO CLOSE
Last Issue Today

This exclusive story, its first ever, will go a long way to raising the spirits of its reader.

ON OTHER PAGES

Entire staff sacked 3
Editor seeks new job 4
Desk for sale (hardly used) 9

E. Strobes
pp. Lord Gnome
On an inter-city sleeper somewhere between Bognor Regis and Didcot Parkway.

"Read my slips"

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

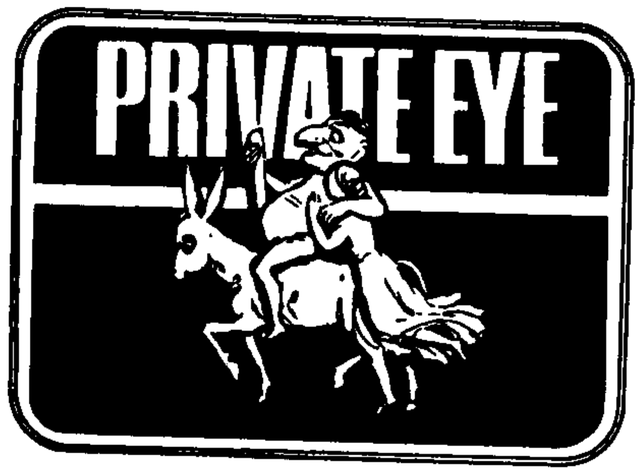
£19 per annum. Europe and Eire £27.
Airmail — rest of world £35.
Cheques/POs to Private Eye. Access/Visa.

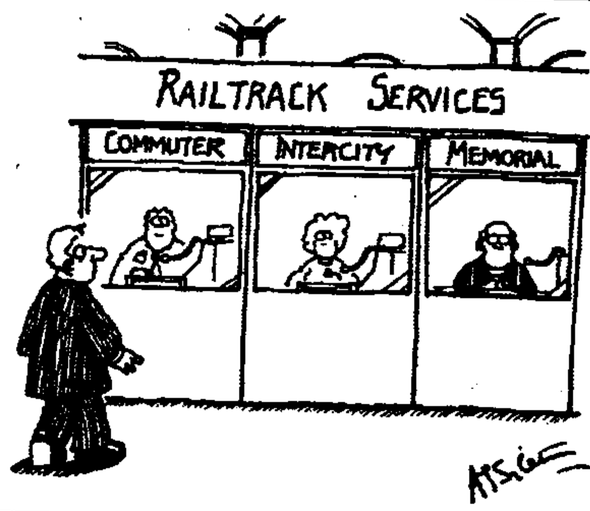
PRIVATE EYE SUBSCRIPTIONS
Mortimer House, 230-236 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1LE
Tel: 020-7228 0588. Fax: 020-7924 3719.
Email: eyesubs@cix.co.uk

EDITORIAL
6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN.
Tel: 020-7437 4017. Fax: 020-7437 0705.
Email: strobes@private-eye.co.uk
http://www.private-eye.co.uk

ADVERTISING
Tel: 020-7923 5402

ABC CONSUMER PRESS





WREATHS ON THE LINE II

A Signal Failures Special

SO Gerald Corbett, chief executive of Railtrack, has achieved what the Luftwaffe couldn't: he has brought more unplanned disruption to Britain's railway system than at any time during the second world war.

His offer to resign merely threw people off the scent. The emergency speed limits and sudden huge delays were interpreted by many as the hallmarks of a responsible, safety-conscious company and not as indicators of how very rotten Railtrack has become.

Corbett's position and that of his fellow directors is now untenable. Not because of any isolated accident but because they have systematically surrendered Railtrack's control over its own chief asset, the rail network, to engineering contractors. Corbett evidently shares prime minister Tony Blair's naïve optimism that private firms put conscientiousness before profits. The result is that Railtrack has been taken for a ride – with fatal consequences.

It is nearly five years since Eye 888 reported how Railtrack had "hurriedly subcontracted maintenance of the infrastructure on which the safety of the public depends" and listed a few of the "astonishing number of faults" that were arising. The ignorance of Railtrack contractors has been a recurring theme in the magazine ever since, despite Railtrack's attempts to prevent leaks from its incident log.

The Commons transport committee advised Railtrack in 1998 to tighten its control over its contractors. But in January 1999 the Eye (see issue 967) suggested that Railtrack was in fact bent on doing the opposite:

"Railtrack's directors want their various contractors to shoulder safety duties. Their vision is of Railtrack as a giant procurement agency, a middle man between engineers and train operators. They award huge 'extended arm' contracts to some companies in the hope of distancing Railtrack from as much of the nitty-gritty engineering details as possible, the idea being that if a rail breaks or a signal fails Railtrack can simply blame the 'extended arm' contractor which is meant to look after such things. With such bothersome liabilities out of its remit, Railtrack's hands would be free for core activities like, er, collecting access fees from train operators and engineering bigger profits every year."

Corbett may not have started the process of hollowing out Railtrack but he took to it with zeal. Railtrack has plenty of contract managers but is now almost devoid of senior managers who monitor contractors' efforts closely and understand what they are looking at. Corbett has earned his annual salary of £400,000 (excluding pension) by ensuring that detailed inspection is carried out by employees of the companies which are also responsible for doing the work.

Railtrack's contracts, now known touchingly as "alliances", give huge firms like Balfour Beatty the task, within an agreed contract price, of deciding what work is needed and how to do it. The less those contractors find wrong, the less they have to spend on repairs and the more they save. The previous contracts at least drew a distinction between the responsibilities of client and contractor, but in an "alliance" the edges are blurred.

Corbett wanted contractors to be both poacher and gamekeeper, presumably because he wanted to run a blue-chip company instead of a "boring old utility". If Railtrack's directors knew more about engineering and railway operation and less about finance, they might have resigned themselves to the boredom of running a relatively safe and stable railway.

Railtrack's impotence is illustrated by a letter leaked to the Eye in which a Railtrack manager berated Balfour Beatty last April for the shambles on the 125mph east coast King's Cross to Edinburgh mainline, but could only appeal to the company's conscience. The letter said 82 percent of defects identified at the southern end of the line – including Hatfield – since the previous November had not been rectified, "each of which could lead to a derailment".

Railtrack did not, and could not, threaten to terminate Balfour Beatty's contract in April because it now depends on a few big contractors who possess knowledge, skills and equipment Railtrack should have kept in house. It has placed all its faith in such contracts, which can be enforced only through costly legal action between what are meant to be allies.

Some of the contractors have been fined for safety breaches but, as Eye 933 observed in July: "Each conviction is a mere slap on the wrist. Railtrack continues to dish out multimillion-pound contracts to companies with convictions and to supervise them inadequately. It seems the only way a contractor could be banished from the railway is by causing an accident involving multiple passenger or worker deaths."

If Balfour Beatty's workforce is found to be at fault in the Hatfield accident, Railtrack will have to decide whether to award the company three new maintenance contracts, worth £600m in total, for which it was the preferred bidder before the accident. One of those contracts – despite Railtrack's frustration with Balfour Beatty in April – covers the majority of the east coast mainline and is due to start on 1 January. Contracts for the Great Eastern and Anglia lines and for all routes in Kent are due to start on 1 April.

Whatever Balfour Beatty's part in Hatfield, Railtrack has as much or more to answer for. It would like us to believe that the sudden appearance of 81 sites with Hatfield-type track defects is linked to historic under-investment by British Rail. But the rail which broke at Hatfield was installed since Railtrack took charge and its failure suggests that Railtrack's maintenance could be faulty, as European rail companies expect rails to last about 22 years (and Railtrack wants them to last 60).

Rail grinding is one routine activity which Railtrack let slip. British Rail used to ensure every high speed line had its rails polished and profiled by a grinder every three or four years. This reduced the chances of corrugations in the surface (caused by the passage of trains) creating a resonance which could lead to rail fractures and reduced the problem of train wheels tapping against the edges of curved rails, a known accelerator of metal fatigue. Railtrack cut back the routine programme of rail grinding after its directors, who know all about money but nothing about trains, failed to identify any financial return from it.

The last issue of Private Eye, labelling Railtrack a "spoilt brat", was rolling off the presses on the day of the Hatfield derailment. A fortnight later, all Railtrack directors remain in their posts and their company has been allotted £4.7bn by the rail regulator to help get themselves out of a hole of their own making. Their salaries, pensions and share options remain intact – which is more than can be said of the rail network and the lives of the Hatfield relatives.

● *More Wreaths on the Line, pages 6-7*

WREATHS ON THE LINE II continued

THE GOVERNMENT

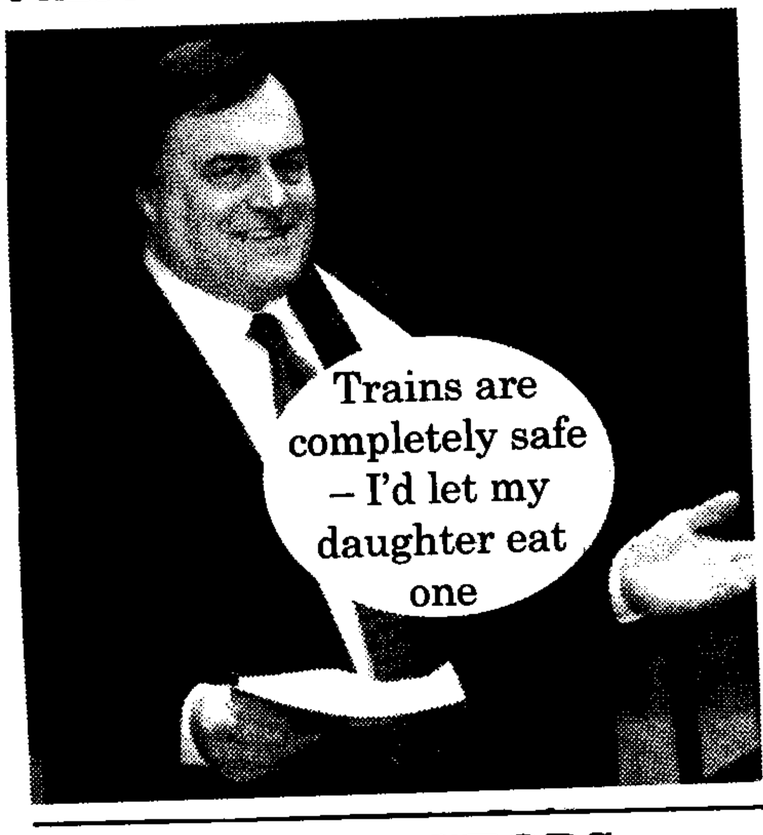
POOR John Prescott, transport supremo. Having been denied the chance to make any meaningful repairs to the structure of the railway, he could only rearrange the deckchairs after the Hatfield derailment.

He responded to the newspaper graphics which highlighted (in simplified form) the huge fragmentation of the industry by promising to reduce the number of companies involved. This turned out to be simply a tiny reduction *in the* number of train operators, which the shadow strategic rail authority (SSRA) had been planning all along. Today's 25 franchises will be replaced with 22. Given that the British Rail system is now in more than 100 parts, reducing the number of operators by three will make no significant difference.

The problem lies not in the aggregate of companies but in the multiple interfaces between organisations in any one geographical area. Creating giant companies won't necessarily help as there will still be the same interfaces between operators, maintainers and owners of trains, plus the owner of the infrastructure, the lessor of stations and the separate contractors for signals, track renewal and maintenance of track, bridges and stations. Each of these interfaces represents a blurring of safety responsibilities and a potential source of friction between one company's lawyers and shareholders and another's.

When senior rail figures talked of the need for a new approach after Hatfield, they seemed to point towards restoring the likes of the GWR and Southern Railway of yesteryear. But for "new" Labour that would require tiresome legislation and smack of intervention to stop the ship sinking. Far better to let Prezza and his SSRA just play around with the deckchairs.

PRESCOTT REASSURES THE NATION



THE TORIES

WILLIAM HAGUE's Tories, usually eager to leap aboard every passing bandwagon, have been curiously reluctant to make political capital out of the Hatfield disaster. Could this have anything to do with the fact that they created the mess in the first place?

Hague's reticence must have come as a great relief to some of his colleagues. Like the chief executive of GNER, who is one Christopher Garnett, older brother of Virginia Bottomley MP. The chairman of Railtrack, which was responsible for the dodgy rail, is Sir Philip Beck — who just happens to be the brother-in-law of David Heathcoat Amory MP, the shadow trade secretary. And the chairman of Balfour Beatty, which was supposed to be fixing the rails round Hatfield, is none other than the senior Tory, Lord Weir. Weir has been a director since the late 70s when Balfour Beatty and its associated firms donated thousands to the party.

Then of course there is Roger Freeman. After the Paddington disaster Railtrack pushed ahead with its intention to buy the cheaper, less effective train protection warning system (TPWS) rather than automatic train protection (ATP), the surer but more expensive system favoured by unions, crash survivors and so on. TPWS is built by French arms firm Thomson-CSF, which is chaired by Freeman, the ex-Tory minister who helped start rail privatisation, promising it would be safer than the old British Rail.

After Paddington of course the Tories decided Labour was somehow to blame. At least this time their transport spokesman Bernard Jenkin conceded that when they privatised BR they did make some "mistakes".

In fact the Tories were repeatedly warned about safety before they pushed through their disastrous fragmentation. At least one senior BR operating and safety manager — Peter Rayner (see Eye 987) — was removed from his post for voicing concerns about the proposed new structure.

He was one of a group of conscientious rail managers who bombarded the government and department of transport with detailed critiques of their proposals and "consultation" documents, only for their concerns to be dismissed as scaremongering.

A five-page letter they sent to Sharon Watkin, private secretary at the DoT, in 1993, says: "Our comments can be summarised as: 1, a bureaucratic monster is being created; 2, it will be unworkable without enormous cost; 3, it is doubtful whether the expertise required will be available; 4, many extra staff, non-productive, will be required; 5, the extra cost will have to be paid by the passenger; 6, the HSE ... says that after creating this massive and costly bureaucracy the railway will not be any safer than it is now; 7, in spite of the copious nature of the draft proposals, many seriously important safety issues have been overlooked."

To get the privatisation legislation past MPs worried about a conflict of interest between Railtrack's safety and commercial roles, the Tories then promised that Railtrack would remain in the public sector.

The Tories' very mild repentance this time encouraged Sir Bob Reid, BR chairman at the time of privatisation, to emerge from his hole to criticise BR's break-up and sale. What a shame he didn't argue that point in public seven or eight years ago, when he could perhaps have made a difference, instead of sacking managers who dared speak out.

THE CONTRACTORS

PRESS coverage has rightly focused on Railtrack's main maintenance sub-contractors, including Balfour Beatty, Jarvis and Serco.

Thanks to the RMT rail union and London mayor Ken Livingstone, Balfour Beatty's appalling safety record (see Eyes passim) and John Prescott's enthusiasm for giving the firm a slice of the London Underground, stayed in the news.

In August the health and safety executive (HSE) released a stinging report into Balfour's role in the Heathrow tunnel collapse. Shamefaced, the firm issued a press release saying: "Balfour Beatty very much regrets its part in the complex of factors which led to the Heathrow tunnel collapse." However, it emphasised that it was still a respectable firm and that "we are currently working successfully with a wide range of clients, including Railtrack."

Jarvis is no stranger to accidents on the line either. In July 1999 the HSE fined it £7,000 because it had failed to identify the minimum number of people required on the track and a worker lost an eye.

A year later it was fined £500,000 for having "failed to check the track before trains were allowed to run, exposing employees and passengers to risk of injury". This case was launched following two separate train derailments in March and August 1999.

However, "new" Labour still loves Jarvis. It is in the same consortium with Balfour Beatty bidding to run a slice of the London Underground.

Just over a week before the Hatfield crash, two trackside workers died in two days. On 9 October 22-year-old Michael Murgovan was struck and killed by an empty train while working for a sub-contractor to Balfour Beatty. (He was a business studies student at Brunel university, working his way through college.)

The next day 41-year-old Mark Meadowcroft was killed by a train while working for Jarvis. So far four rail workers have been killed this year; last year it was five.

Number crunching

21,500
Number of workers employed by British Rail on track maintenance in 1994

15,500
Numbers of workers employed on track maintenance in 1998

THE OPERATOR

MANAGERS at GNER, the company operating the Leeds-bound train that crashed at Hatfield, were probably thinking about people in glass houses when they publicly supported Railtrack boss Gerald Corbett after the accident.

Had GNER supported calls for people to be sacked at rail companies which have put cost-cutting before safety, the spotlight might have turned on GNER's own record. A little digging, through *Eye* back issues would have revealed that GNER possibly operates the most risky high-speed train service in Europe. In June Eye 1003 reported that GNER and Great Western Trains had saved money by abolishing British Rail's safety rule that any train running faster than 110mph without automatic train protection (ATP) must have two drivers in the cab, one acting as a "second pair of eyes".

This landed GWT in trouble at Southall, but since then GWT used ATP on its 125mph trains. GNER, however, has still not fitted ATP to its trains because of the cost. It prefers the cheaper imitation – which is useless over 70mph. Having only one driver in each GNER cab has made ATP appear less viable, because it would not now have the benefit of saving the second driver's wages.

Two Eurostar trains GNER has hired since spring are equipped with ATP, which has to be switched off as Railtrack hasn't installed ATP on the east coast line. There can be few other lines in Europe where trains without ATP exceed 110mph for sustained periods with only one driver in the cab.

Rail safety in Britain is now so reactive that the additional risk GNER created has been ignored, despite the Southall crash. It will continue to be ignored because it so happens that the Hatfield accident would not have been prevented by ATP. Passengers may have to wait for an ATP-preventable accident on that line – a train passing a red signal or derailing because of speeding – before GNER (or its successor) is compelled to put safety before profit.

THE DEBATE

WHY oh why has the media swallowed the ridiculous notion that punctuality has to get even worse if safety is to improve?

The idea that safety is inversely related to punctuality is rubbish. This was demonstrated on 20 October when a train passed a red signal at Norwood Junction, south London, damaging a set of points. A Railtrack letter leaked to the Eye states "the signal was a red due to late running" of an earlier train.

Rail timetables are devised with military precision so no two trains are scheduled to share the same piece of track at the same time. As the timetable is rarely delivered with military precision, drivers who should be zipping past a series of green or amber signals must stop frequently.

It is impossible to eliminate delays entirely, but the delays that were common on most routes even before the post-Hatfield kneejerk implied a risk of red signals being passed in error. The current dog's dinner of temporary speed limits, often instituted at short notice, may confuse drivers and actually increase the number of trains passing red lights.

Japanese railways deliver train timetables with military precision and maintain lines more efficiently and with less disruption to services than Railtrack. It is no coincidence that one of the most punctual railways in the world is also one of the safest.

PS: Good job the media was distracted by Hatfield and not thirsting for more stories about signals passed at danger (Spads). The leaked Railtrack letter about Norwood says: "This signal has had THIRTEEN [Railtrack's emphasis] previous Spads."

THE PRESS

"PRIVATISATION, which has worked so brilliantly in other areas, hasn't been nearly so successful on the railways," a Daily Mail editorial noted on 19 October. "We are left with a network that is a national disgrace... Railtrack is facing massive fines because of delays to trains caused by broken rails and faulty signals. Meanwhile the train operators run services notable only for their squalor, unreliability and expensiveness."

Strong words. Alas, the paper forgot to add that the main Fleet Street cheerleader for the privatisation fiasco was the Daily Mail. On 5 February 1996, for instance, a Mail editorial predicted that once British Rail had been broken up and flogged to the private sector, "a sunny Monday morning should dawn when even Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells may be prevailed upon to admit that privatisation was just the ticket."

On 17 December that year, the Mail's industrial correspondent David Norris wrote a gushing article promising that the new generation of rail entrepreneurs would "run services more efficiently and boost takings by attracting more passengers with innovatory ideas and improvements." And on 21 February 1997, when the incompetence of the new rail companies was already notorious, Martin Vander Weyer wrote a huge leader-page article rebuking the doubters. "Rail privatisation is beginning to look like a real success," he raved. "There is a sense that rail is, at last, becoming a genuine service business rather than an engineering operation in which passengers are merely obstacles on the line."

Vander Weyer resurfaced two weeks ago, this time in the Sunday Telegraph. "Rail privatisation was, above all, a financial opportunity for the shrewd operators who bought into it, rather than a recipe for better railways," he revealed. "An industry dependent on long-term investment had been redesigned to offer short-term profit to a multiplicity of players, few of whom have large enough stakes to feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for the future of the network... The Hatfield crash is symbolic of a fragmented industry, in which decisions about what is best for safety, efficiency and growth in traffic are confused by a grotesque mishmash of conflicting financial interests." Now he tells us...

Vander Weyer wasn't the only hack suffering from welcome amnesia about his own, er, track record. Elsewhere in the Sunday Telegraph of 22 October, City editor Neil Bennett named and shamed the guilty: "Railtrack was wholly responsible for the Hatfield crash that killed four people... The biggest problem in the industry is the inefficient monolith of Railtrack itself."

Oddly enough, this is the same Neil Bennett who penned a hymn of praise to rail privatisation in the Sunday Telegraph of 4 August 1996. "Railtrack, the rail network operator, is beginning a 10-year, £10 billion investment programme to transform the dilapidated infrastructure," he wrote then. "The privatisation of Railtrack two months ago was expected by its critics to be an overwhelming flop. But in the end it turned out to be a runaway success... The privatised network seems to be working... Passengers are already beginning to feel the benefit." And so on, for 1,100 words.

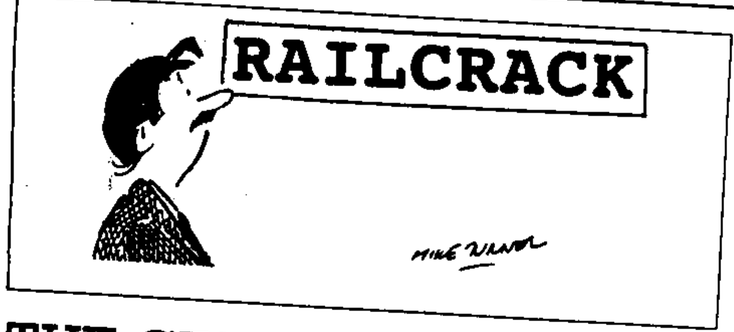
Four years on, Bennett savages this inefficient monolith and demands the resignation of its chief executive Gerald Corbett. The clamour for Corbett to stay, he declares angrily, "exposed the fissures of hypocrisy that run through this government and (sadly) much of the media". Just so.

One of the fiercest editorials in the past fortnight appeared in the Edinburgh Evening News. "The adversarial culture created by privatisation has compromised safety and reduced the service to a shambles," it thundered. How many more deaths would it take "for those responsible for the whole sorry mess to admit what fare-paying passengers have been saying for years"?

Could the paper by any chance be referring to its own editor-in-chief, Andrew "Brillo Pad" Neill, who in the mid-1990s kept urging the government to press ahead with the sell-off? "A majority of the public is against rail privatisation," he sneered in the Sunday Times of 11 February 1996, "and the usual fainthearts on the Tory benches have even taken to calling it 'the poll tax on wheels'. But public opinion has been against every previous privatisation of state industries. In that stubborn, peculiarly dogged British way, we seem determined never to learn." The privatised rail network, he promised, would deliver "better service and lower prices... The benefits will flow once the new system is in place".

However, another of Brillo Pad's newspapers still loyally defends its boss. Even after the Hatfield disaster, the Scotsman continued to insist – in that stubborn, peculiarly dogged Scottish way – that "privatisation has been good for customers".

Except for the dead ones, presumably.



THE CIVIL SERVANT

NICK MONTAGU, the civil servant who was responsible for rail privatisation under John Major's government and worked alongside cycling transport secretary Sir George Young, has gone up in the world since implementing the scheme which has cost taxpayers £1.1bn and proved such a disaster.

Montagu is now extracting even more money from taxpayers as chairman of the Inland Revenue, where he has been busy defending its disastrous "strategic partnership" with the *Eye's* favourite computer company, EDS.

Five Years Ago

"IT IS no good in five years' time saying 'We were the safest railway in the world but we went out of business'," wrote senior Railtrack manager Jan Glasscock in a letter leaked to the *Eye* in 1995 (888).

"We do have to be mindful of the commercial effect these [safety] requirements are having on the railway industry as a whole and Railtrack as a business."

Five years on Railtrack has been so mindful of the commercial effect of safety requirements that its railway is in tatters. It is far from the safest railway in the world... but it is still very much in business.

THE THINGS THEY SAY...

THE calibre of Railtrack directors can be gauged from the opinions of Nicholas Pollard, director of Railtrack's London and north-eastern zone, voiced on a BBC TV documentary last year. He portrayed Britain's privatised railway as a superior, self-supporting system.

"I'm glad I'm not a Frenchman," he said. "I wouldn't want to see my taxes getting spent in that manner [on railways]. I would much prefer that my taxes go into hospitals or education. That's something that privatisation is allowing in the UK."

Pollard was slightly less smug when he appeared on television on the day of the Hatfield accident. Perhaps the penny had suddenly dropped that:

- Britain's train operators receive around £1.2bn a year from British taxpayers in subsidy, mainly to help meet Railtrack's track-access charges;
- Railtrack is likely to receive around £4bn of taxpayers' money to cover its incompetence on the west coast mainline upgrade;
- SNCF, the French state railway, recorded an operating surplus of about £30m last year;
- English hospitals might have made their public funding stretch further had they not had to patch up the casualties of three high-speed train accidents in three years.

AND THE SALARIES THEY EARN...

THE finest business minds in Britain were behind the Hatfield disaster.

Mike Welton, chief executive of maintenance firm Balfour Beatty, takes home £355,026 a year. Paris Moayedi, chief executive of contractor Jarvis, earns £347,000 a year.

Gerald Corbett of Railtrack, meanwhile, wants his firm to continue paying dividends of £137m and combined boardroom salaries of £2,153,000 a year.

NEWS

LORD Phillips, of BSE inquiry fame, has a long record of inquiring into disasters.

In 1982 he reported on the collision of the roll-on roll-off ferry European Gateway with Sealink's Speedlink Vanguard in the approach to Harwich harbour. The Gateway, which had few passengers on board, sank in six minutes and six people died.

At the inquiry some telling points were made about the design of ro-ro ferries which made them liable to capsize and sink quickly. Phillips noted these criticisms and observed: "It cannot be satisfactory to proceed upon the basis that no passenger vessel will ever again suffer a fate similar to that of the European Gateway."

This cautious statement was typical of his report which, to the delight of ferry manufacturers and operators, made no definite recommendations about ferry design. Viscount Caldecote, president of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects, lamented later: "I am appalled to realise now that no effective action was taken after the European Gateway capsize."

The institution warned that a disaster was likely; and sure enough in 1987 the ro-ro ferry Herald of Free Enterprise sank killing 200. A public inquiry blamed the ferry design and the operator – but few people blamed Phillips for the guarded and mealy-mouthed way he had made recommendations five years earlier.

Phillips's BSE report has the same failings and its guarded tone and careful approach to those in authority leaves the door open for future disasters. Typical are his sections on two matters to which the *Eye* has paid special attention.

On **vaccines** the report confirms the *Eye's* numerous assertions that stocks of vaccines were used for vaccinations long after it became clear that they had been made with the help of bovine material from British cows, which may have been infected with BSE. On minor points, such as the incompetence of the health department in keeping statistics about how much of these stocks were used, Phillips is critical. On the crucial question – should the suspect stocks have been immediately withdrawn and alternative stocks compiled from BSE-free herds? – Phillips is 100 percent on the side of "overwhelming" medical opinion of the time that the stocks should not have been withdrawn. So hundreds of thousands of children were injected with vaccines which may have been infected with BSE.

Regarding the **commercial interests of government scientists**, on the whole Phillips supports the right of scientists who sit on government committees to have relevant commercial interests. A good example, fielded in the last *Eye*, is the case of Prof Richard Kimberlin, who was at the same time a member of the government regulatory committee on BSE – SEAC – and a paid consultant to the meat and livestock commission.

Phillips criticises Kimberlin for "not perceiving" that a request to him from the MLC for answers to questions about BSE "created a potential conflict of interest". He should, says Phillips, have told everyone concerned about his interests, but his right to remain on a government regulatory committee while having such interests is nowhere even criticised.

THE next BSE-style disaster waiting to happen, according to a recent congress of the British Veterinary Association, is antibiotic-resistant bacteria which develop in animals and then transfer to humans, leading to multiple drug-resistance.

Unfortunately it is not in the interests of vets to stop prescribing the drugs which make up most of their income and to turn instead to preventive measures or alternative treatments. Despite the warnings, we now have a situation where almost every broiler chicken in the UK is fed avilamycin, an antibiotic almost identical to Ziracin, the last ditch hope against hospital super-bugs. Don't say you weren't warned...

Antique Furniture
Made DAILY
Advertisement, New York

NEWS

THE recent takeover of Welsh water and electricity utility Hyder by US conglomerate Western Power Distribution brought an end to the reign of Hyder chief executive Graham Hawker. His departure left many of the small investors who saw their nest eggs disappear when Hyder's share price dived, fuming at his £400,000 pay-off.

The misfortunes of Hyder under Hawker's leadership have not affected his career prospects one jot. At the end of September he was appointed chief executive of the Welsh Development Agency, the new super quango which incorporates the old Land Agency for Wales and the Development Board for Rural Wales. The announcement came as something of a surprise considering that Hawker's main achievement at Hyder was to turn a safely profitable monopoly into a debt-ridden disaster. This was largely owing to Hawker's reckless purchase of other companies, notably the local electricity supply company SWALEC, for which he paid over the odds.

Hawker has now begun to apply his management skills at the WDA. The agency has just put in a bid to buy a former paper mill site in Cardiff to develop into retail and housing, much to the surprise of Cirrus Properties, the private bidder which believed it had clinched the deal with an offer of £11m plus an extra £5m to improve the infrastructure. The WDA's bid is substantially higher than this £16m, leading observers to speculate that Hawker will soon be on track to repeat history and bankrupt the WDA.

DAVID NEWLANDS, new chief executive of the conglomerate Tomkins plc, has said he is treating as "very, very serious" the charge that his predecessor Greg Hutchings siphoned off £85,000 of company money for political donations without telling shareholders.

Mr Hutchings was an ardent supporter of Jeffrey Archer in the latter's forlorn campaign to become mayor of London. Could the allegation possibly refer to donations made to that campaign? If so, the generous Mr Hutchings could find himself accused under the companies act. He should not worry though. He could always call Archer as a character witness.

The answers to these questions are all known by the auditor to Tomkins – our old chum Arthur Andersen.

● *See In the City, page 28.*

This circular has been sent to:

- Primary, infant and junior schools
- LEA Advisers and techer centers

Qualifications & Curriculum Authority

•Tall, dark, handsome, professional 30-something seeks creative, vibrant professional to merge dairies.

Financial Times (Introductory Service)

O·B·N

The title of Nigella's book, *How To Be A Domestic Goddess*, is intended to be playful but is actually a statement of fact. Nigella has become a divinity...

Nigella demands a whole new genre of communication.

She said in an interview last week that she feels she makes people tense. It is true that goodness combined with incandescent beauty is a conversation stopper. When Nigella enfolded me in her heavenly embrace at her book launch last week, all I could say was: "Gosh, you look so beautiful." I guess she had already been told this by a hundred people. This is not conversation, it is worship.

SARAH SANDS, Daily Telegraph

Nominated by Strobes.

£10 paid for entries put forward for the Order of the Brown Nose.

Street Of Shame

JUST weeks before a department of trade report into the *Mirror* share-dealing scandal is due to be published, the *Mirror's* "Sorted" column ran an apparently unrelated investigation into an alleged telephone scam by a former City trader Simon Abraham.

The Sorted hacks reported that Abraham has just been fined £7,500 by the premium-rate phone watchdog ICSTIS for hoodwinking punters into spending money on high cost calls. Abraham had in fact been fined on 24 May, so why did the *Mirror* decide to print the story five months later?

As the press complaints commission adjudication into the City Slickers debacle stated of Piers Morgan at the time: "As editor he was responsible for the content of the column." And Morgan has good reason to dislike Abraham, namely the £5m high court action which he is currently involved in with David Kyte, founder of the top City dealing firm, Kyte Securities.

Morgan bought the Viglen shares which got him into trouble in the first place through Antony Laiker, who, before he left the firm in the wake of the *Mirror* fiasco, was a broker at, er, Kyte Securities.

● *See In the City, page 28.*

WRITING in the *Spectator* a few weeks ago, Andrew Neill summarised his newspapers' new arts policy as "no more automatic notices for Marxist trapeze artists".

Obscure Stalinist poets from Romania are clearly quite a different matter: for Brillo's *Scotsman* has now found itself sponsoring a verse recital at St Andrews University by Adrian Paunescu, an unrepentant extreme nationalist who was "court poet" to the late lamented Nicolae Ceausescu.

The programme for the event implied that Paunescu was a dissident who had been "harassed" by the Ceausescu regime. Not so: he was sycophant-in-chief, organising mass rallies at which youngsters were dragooned into praising the Great Leader, while also churning out heroic verses. The rival Glasgow *Sunday Herald* gleefully quoted a typical Paunescu poem from the 1980s: "We have our very own sun emerging from our capital city, Bucharest. It is Ceausescu himself..."

The paper also quoted Constantin Roman, en exiled Romanian academic now living in Cambridge: "It is ironic that at a time when the people of Yugoslavia give a thumbs down to Milosevic, the University of St Andrews has invited this fraud to their festival."

Well done, Brillo!

ON THE occasions when he's actually there, Andrew "Brillo Pad" Neill uses the *Scotsman* HQ for more than the mere running of loss-making newspapers. The Holyrood building is also the base for a suitably opaque organisation known as the Barclay Foundation, set up by Brillo's shadowy employers.

The Foundation recently held a lunch at Edinburgh's One Devonshire restaurant, with the great man billed as star attraction. Neill's tedious harangue oddly made no mention of repeated mass purges as the key to business success; nor did he answer questions afterwards or meet the guests. "That's it – I'm off now," he announced at the end of the speech, and left the room forthwith.

Walter Allen, whom Neill had recruited from the Institute of Economic Affairs as fund-raiser for the BF, was seen to follow Neill out and remonstrate gently with him in the foyer. Accounts vary as to what happened next. Some say that Allen only felt able to make this rash show of dissent because he had already resigned, others that Brillo Pad responded by angrily firing him on the spot. Either way, the huge army of ex-employees of Andrew Neill has another recruit.

At least Brillo Pad did turn up for the do, which was more courtesy than he extended to the Royal Bank's Sir Peter Burt. The two corporate titans were supposed to meet for lunch to discuss Scottish business, but after Burt had waited for half an hour there arrived... not Brillo, but his minion Rebecca "Doris" Hardy of the *Scotsman*, the former showbiz hackette of the *Daily Mail*. Proferring the Chief's apologies, Doris attempted to engage Sir Peter in conversation.

Alas! Familiar though she may be with London celebs, soap stars and sushi bars, Doris knows little about Scotland and even less about banking. This was soon painfully apparent to the justifiably peeved Burt, who after about five minutes stood up, muttered "you don't know anything at all about this, do you?" and marched off – leaving fair Doris to pick up the tab and face, we fear, the Wrath of Brillo.

THE *Daily Mail* is relying on the small print in the press complaints commission's (PCC) rules to avoid major embarrassment after accusing two innocent women of murder on the word of a conman.

On 24 June the *Mail* ran a double-page spread in which it accused sisters Michelle and Lisa Taylor of being guilty of the 1991 murder of Alison Shaughnessy, despite the appeal court having overturned their conviction with a resounding thump in 1993. The story, by Jo Ann Goodwin, was a rehash of the old prosecution case, spiced up with one devastating new ingredient – the claim by former nightclub bouncer Bernard O'Mahoney that Michelle Taylor had confessed her guilt to him.

Goodwin, alas, neglected to tell readers that O'Mahoney is a conman who specialises in writing letters to high-profile prisoners and then selling the correspondence to newspapers. The criminals are not the only ones being conned. The *Sunday People* was once on the verge of handing over £4,000 cash to O'Mahoney before it realised the fragrant "Belinda Cannon" who had been writing with such sensitivity to the Yorkshire Ripper was our Bernard in a bonnet.

Nor did the *Mail* story mention that O'Mahoney hates Michelle Taylor, who kicked him out of her bed, and nor that he has been waging a war on the Taylor family ever since. All this should have been known to Jo Ann Goodwin, because it had been exposed at length by Nick Davies in the *Grauniad* in December 1997. Davies described O'Mahoney as "a polished liar" and "a hypocrite of spectacular proportions".

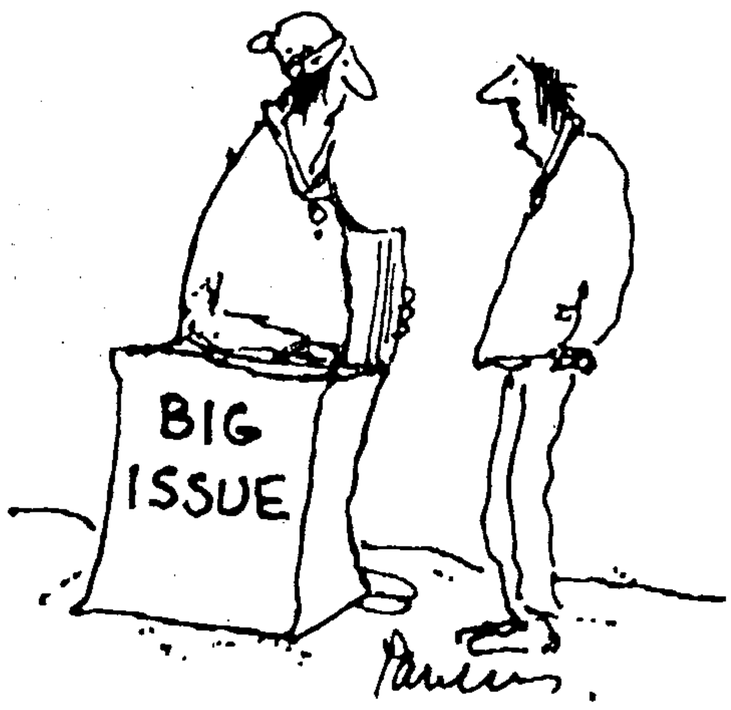
When the *Mail* ran its story, the Taylor sisters went to solicitor Geoffrey Bindman to sue the paper. Their parents, meanwhile, filed a complaint with the PCC, citing the 1997 *Guardian* story. The *Mail* smugly replied that the *Guardian*'s own cuttings library had attached a solicitor's letter to the file, warning that Davies's story was unreliable. Alarmed, the Taylors spoke to the *Guardian*, which said there was no such letter in the cuttings file. The *Mail* then seemingly trumped them by producing a letter to O'Mahoney's solicitors from *Guardian* editor Alan Rusbridger. It acknowleded a complaint from Bernard O'Mahoney and agreed that his solicitor's letter should be attached to the offending cutting as a warning. Match point to the *Mail* – except the "Rusbridger letter" was a forgery.

The *Guardian* editor does not recognise the signature which is supposed to be his; his office has no record of having sent the letter, nor of having received the one to which it purports to be a reply; no letter of warning was ever attached to the 1997 cutting. The *Guardian* does, it is true, have a record of correspondence with O'Mahoney's lawyers. This concluded in May 1998 with an emphatic rejection of every aspect of his complaint about the story.

With the sisters' legal action bearing down on it, the *Mail* is hoping that the PCC will reject the parents' complaint on behalf of the sisters, because under PCC rules the sisters themselves cannot complain if they are also suing. But if the PCC is tempted to let the *Mail* wriggle out of this loophole, i is faced with a bigger difficulty: if it's not a breach o the press code to accuse people of murder on the uncorroborated word of a conman with malice, there is not much code left that deserves the name.

THE *Sun*'s recent front page attack on "Bruta Bruno Brookes" for allegedly beating ex-girlfrien Anthea Turner made no reference to a special offer being promoted on the rag's website.

The-Sun.co.uk has teamed up with Storm Live, "the UK's most exciting online radio station", to se one reader on a blind date, accompanied by Storm Jo Guest. One person who presumably won't be present at the "slap-up lunch at a top London hotel Storm Live's md, er, Bruno Brookes.



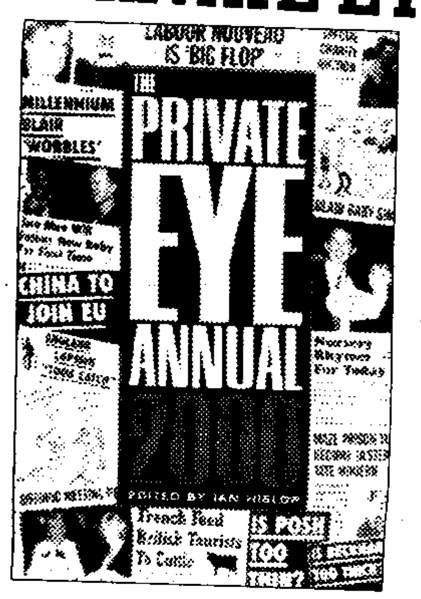
"Still working from home then?"

HAVING excoriated Donald Dewar while he was alive, the *Scotsman* naturally led the extraordinary wave of sanctimony and sycophancy which engulfed the Scottish press following the first minister's untimely demise. The *Hootsmon's* remaining readers were, however, spared one tribute.

While the hacks were sitting around wondering who on earth to get to pen yet another eulogy to the Caledonian Nelson Mandela and Father of the Nation, someone suggested the name of Jimmy Gordon.

Since Gordon – millionaire, Labour peer, and current head of the Scottish Tourist Board – had been a friend of Dewar since student days, it seemed an excellent idea. Then someone else remembered that, only that morning, the paper had run a furious editorial denouncing Gordon as a clueless chump who should resign from the STB forthwith.

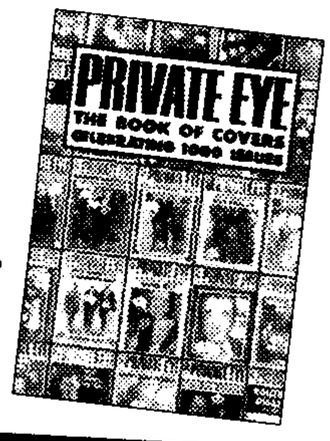
OUT NOW!
FOUR NEW PRIVATE EYE BOOKS



The best of the magazine over the last year. In fact the best of this century – don't miss it! £8.99 Hardback.

The vicar of St Albion, the Rev. Blair, is back in 'Son of Blair, The Sequel'. The third book in the series – buy now! £4.99

Celebrating 20 years of the Eye column – COLEMANBALLS 10 £3.99



PLUS...
A selection of the best covers from 1000 issues of Private Eye £7.99

All on sale now at W.H. Smuggs and most other bookshops

FROTHWATCH

IT has become the most sneering epithet in the Downing Street lexicon. Did Tony Blair and Gordon Brown lie about a £1 million donation? "Froth." What about Geoffrey Robinson's allegations? "Flath froth." Philip Gould's leaked memo? "A piece of froth which will be here today and gone tomorrow." And the sidelining of Mo Mowlam? "Tittle-tattle gossiping flambeed up into some frothtastic cocktail."

Again and again in recent months, Alastair Campbell and his boss have insisted that the only acceptable place for froth is in their cappuccinos. As Blair said in his epeech in South Korea a fortnight ago, "with the relentless focus on day-to-day events and personalities it is vital that political leaders never lose sight of the need to forget the froth and focus on the fundamentals". At a recent lobby briefing, even a light-hearted question about Kevin Keegan's resignation was sternly rebuffed by the frothaphobic Campbell.

So what are these "fundamentals" on which Blair is constantly focused? His main interviews over the past year offer some clues...

Freedom of expression

"I think it's one of the tyrannies of modern life that men have to dress in conventional suits the whole time...I'm trying to get out of suits and I think women have a lot more freedom in that sense. I'll often be photographed in casual clothes, and there are political cultures where people do dress casually, but it's not part of our system. However, I think it will happen in time." (*Prima*, July 2000.)

Culture

"I do pick up the guitar quite often. A friend of mine has a Spanish guitar and he's taught me a few bits of music on that. I don't play the electric guitar much, but I do have one. It's a Stratocaster." (*New Woman*, May 2000.)

Women in the workplace

"British women are fantastic and all women that can combine family and work are superwomen...[Cherie] is tremendous. I'm constantly amazed how she combines being a mother with work and her charity stuff." (*Prima*, July 2000.)

The voluntary sector

"She [mother-in-law Gale Booth] is my biggest sounding-board, a one-person focus group for me. Cherie and I simply couldn't have got through the last 10 years without her. And I'm sure she'll help out with the little one, too." (*Woman's Weekly*, 1 January 2000.)

Working-hours directive

"I do like a good night's sleep, but I can keep going without it for a while." (*Marie Claire*, May 2000.)

New Technology

"I'm completely hopeless. It's embarrassing when you see the kids – I was watching one of my boys the other night, and his hands just fly over the keyboard. Cherie is brilliant at it too – a computer whizz." (*Woman's Weekly*, 1 January 2000.)

Animal rights

"Humphrey [the cat] wasn't well. He had kidney trouble, I think – and the vet told us that the hectic atmosphere in Downing Street and the Cabinet Office, with people always coming and going, wasn't good for his health. So, on advice, it was decided that he should retire to a quieter home in the suburbs. From what I've heard, the change of scene has improved his health." (*Marie Claire*, May 2000.)

The elderly

"There are going to be more and more people like my Auntie Iris and my father in the 21st century...What they need is certain basic things done for them, and we're looking at ways to allow them far more freedom to stay in their own homes." (*Marie Claire*, May 2000.)

An ageing population

"I don't think I look older, but people keep telling me I look much older. I've no complaints, though." (*Marie Claire*, May 2000.)

Youth policy

"I might do some homework with them [the kids] or we might watch a bit of television together. The boys and I listen to music and stuff if they've got some latest band they want me to hear." (*New Woman*, May 2000.)

Mental health

"My kids drive me mad, I never stop worrying about them. But they also keep me sane." (*Red* magazine, June 2000.)

Convergence criteria

"I was here at the desk writing my party conference speech. And she came to me and said, 'I've got some news for you, and it's going to be rather shocking about the family.' Well, I immediately thought there was something wrong, that there was something wrong with our kids. She said there was nothing wrong with the kids that we had. 'But Tony, I think we're going to have another.'...And I think I did get round to saying, 'That's wonderful, darling'. But that was after a few minutes." (*New York Times* magazine, 14 May 2000.)

Social inclusion

"If I'm out in my constituency, County Durham, and I go along to the local pub everyone's just fine. There's no problem. I can just sit and have a drink with friends...What's nice is that it's not a big thing for them, you know? They're used to it...I think most people would be surprised at how utterly normal my reactions are to things." (*New Woman*, May 2000.)

European integration

"I never expected to be a celebrity and I'm actually very normal. And now I've become better known around the world, even if I'm in Europe people will stop me. Which is nice, but strange at the same time." (*New Woman*, May 2000.)

Food standards

"I cook a lot of things badly. It's the one thing I can't lie about. If my kids ever saw me claim to be anything other than a dreadful cook, they would rise up in protest. I've had disasters on most things, including toast!" (*New Woman*, May 2000.)

Political philosophy

"My politics are personal. They are influenced by what I feel about my own education and my children's." (*Red*, June 2000.)

And, er, froth...

"One of the problems in the media today is the relentless focus on anything to do with the personality of people in public life." (*Marie Claire*, May 2000.)

ADULTERER's weekly the *Mail on Sunday* ran a shocking exposé on 22 October about the corrupting influence of Eduweb, a government-funded website for schools which provides a link to an advice page containing "sexually explicit material and drugs information".

Although the service is intended for youngsters at secondary school, there is a risk of the information being read by primary school children, according to *Mail* hackette Nicola Woolcock. She failed to mention, however, that the creator of the offending website, Dr Ann McPherson (author of the best-selling *Diary of a Teenage Health Freak*) is a much respected adviser to young people, or that Eduweb is highly recommended by the search engine UK Plus, run by the new media arm of Associated Newspapers.

***SUNDAY Mirror* political editor Peter "Scoops" MacMahon is leaving the sinking weekly to become chief of staff for Henry McLeish, the amazingly dull new Scottish first minister.**

In doing so MacMahon – who landed the *Mirror* job after intervention from Alastair Campbell – joins a distinguished list of former propagandists, er, that is journalists, who have left *Mirror* titles to become official government spin-doctors.

They include Campbell and David Bradshaw, who later joined Campbell in Downing Street. And not forgetting John Williams, the former *Mirror* lobby hack who now fields calls for foreign secretary Robin Cook.

Heavyweight (91kg)
J Bloggs-hyphen (Ukr) bt J Bloggsnohyphen (US) rsf 3rd.
Observer

GOING LIVE

THE Hatfield rail disaster provoked some monumentally pointless live TV coverage, not to mention bizarre editing. Designed as a two-finger salute to BBC News, ITN's cunningly scheduled 9pm *Special Report* was a case in point.

First Trevor Macdonald reassured viewers "police have ruled out terrorist action". Then he cued in the same taped package that had been run by ITN a full two and a half hours earlier, in which Paul Davies (using information then available) revealed that "police *can't* rule out terrorism".

Macdonald then went live to Lawrence McGinty, who promptly poured cold water on the terrorism theory. "Terrorist activity cannot be *absolutely* ruled out," he revealed, but it was now thought unlikely.

McGinty then kicked in another taped item recorded several hours earlier. In it Christian Wolmar pointed a definite finger at the balaclava-wearing tendency: "It *could* have been a terrorist attack."

Finally ITN went live to Nick Owen, standing "near" the crash site and ready to offer his own expertise. "We'd like to show you what's happening but it's frankly too dark to see anything," he announced.

POPEYE

EMBARRASSMENT looms for right-on pop types attending MTV Europe's music awards in Stockholm this month.

Due to turn up are the likes of Madonna, Jennifer Lopez, Ricky Martin, Backstreet Boys, Bomfunk MCs, Guano Apes and Moby, not to mention U2, The Spice Girls, Robbie Williams and Ronan Keating.

Alas, MTV's London-based employees, who organise the event, are involved in one of those embarrassing industrial relations stand-offs that are so typical of the capitalist system.

The extremely aggressive managers at MTV (a subsidiary of the giant Viacom corporation) want to change the contracts of more than 100 of their British technical staff. Changes include replacing paid overtime with unpaid overtime, cutting holiday entitlements by a third and, at a supervisor's discretion, sending people home rather than have them cluttering up the studio.

For radical musicians who can so often be found supporting rain forests, refugees and seal pups, etc, this poses a dilemma. Should they turn up on the night and bathe in the publicity – or stay away and show solidarity with the oppressed, poorly paid technicians?

MEDIA NEWS

THE *News of the World* did not spare the rod for TV watchdog Lord "Toad" Holme over his affairs with two younger mistresses and his penchant for spanking. "By day he decides what YOU watch on TV," raged Rebekah Wade's minions. "By night he indulges his fantasies."

Now that he has been found out, and Mrs Toad will presumably be keeping him locked safely indoors of an evening, Holme might find an outlet for his frustrated fantasies in the autumn schedule of the *Screws'* US cousin, Rupert Murdoch's Fox satellite channel.

Temptation Island, billed as the next wave of reality television, takes four committed couples to an exotic location and tempts them to infidelity by sending them on a series of dates with singles looking for love. But if it's beatings Holme wants, he could do worse than tune in to *Police Videos,* featuring "full-throttle action of an array of police activity, including high-speed chases, robberies in progress, SWAT team raids and deadly shoot-outs".

TIME to assess BBC director-general Greg Dyke's commitment to slim down the higher management of the corporation.

The Beeb's executive committee of June 1999 was a bloated team of no fewer than one DG, six chief executives and four directors. But as of October 2000, the slimmed down, lean and hungry executive committee consists of just one DG, two chief executives and, er, *fifteen* directors.

Yes, Dyke's "cull" of top management has actually produced another seven well-rewarded sinecures. How this will affect his goal of saving £1bn over seven years remains to be seen.

Meanwhile other managers faced with the chop are simply changing their job titles or downgrading their posts while keeping their salaries. As under Birt, demoralised staff are beginning to fear that instead of cutting back on the pay and perks of fatcats, Dyke will look to the lower orders to provide the savings.

VIEWERS in the East Costwolds are reaping the enormous benefit of a decision by the BBC to switch coverage of the region from Newsroom South East to BBC South.

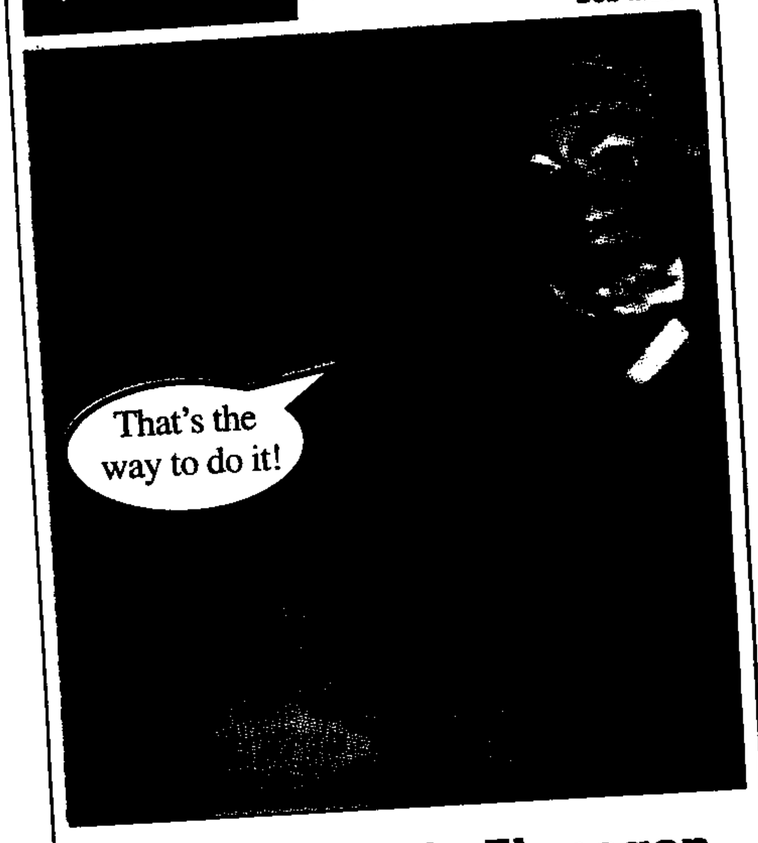
It means a reduction in local news, travel, weather, sport and teletext services and a loss of London-based news stories, even though many locals commute to work in the capital every week.

Their main news centre is now in Southampton, which pumps out items about the weather in Worthing and Brighton's nightlife to viewers in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire.

As BBC Oxford's editor Phil Ashworth tells in-house propaganda rag *Ariel*: "Now we have the chance to explore and promote localness in television. There's nothing better than seeing news from your own street corner". Depends what street corner you're on of course.

SPLIT personalities

Bob Moore



Punch & Judy Finnegan

DUMB BRITAIN

BBC2's *The Weakest Link*

Anne Robinson: Space exploration. What does the acronym NASA stand for?
Contestant: National Socialist Space Satellite.

Robinson: In what century was the composer J.S. Bach born?
Contestant: The twentieth century.
Robinson: Who initiated the Chinese cultural revolution?
Contestant: Ming.
Robinson: In the TV series of the same name, who played the pathologist Quincy?
Contestant: Quincy

ITV's *Family Fortunes*

Les Dennis: Name a TV soap.
Contestant: Dove.
Les: Apart from washing, name something you might find on a washing line…
Contestant: A tent.

ITV's *This Morning* with Fern Britton and John Leslie.

Leslie: On which street did Sherlock Holmes live?
Contestant: Er…
Leslie: He makes bread…
Contestant: Er…
Leslie: He makes cakes…
Contestant: Kipling Street?

MUSIC & MUSICIANS

IN music as in politics, anglo-Irish relations have their ups and downs. The Wexford Opera Festival running this week in deepest southern Ireland is a harmless binge where music-lovers go to hear obscure works and get plastered on the local tipple of champagne and Guinness. But behind the smiles and heavy hospitality there's been a row between two rival broadcasting operations – the RTE in Dublin and the BBC in Belfast – which threatens to recreate backstage in Wexford's tiny Theatre Royal the artistic equivalent of an incident in the Falls Road.

RTE effectively underwrites Wexford by providing its in-house broadcasting band – the National Symphony Orchestra – to play in the pit for next to nothing. In return, RTE has the exclusive right to broadcast Wexford's operas throughout Ireland; and in the past it was always assumed that this left Wexford free to do a separate deal with the BBC for broadcasts everywhere else. But this year RTE claimed the agreement gave it exclusive rights for the whole of Europe. Consequence: an Irish shouting match that wasn't helped when the BBC contingent let it be known they wouldn't be prepared to buy in an RTE recording because the technical standards couldn't be guaranteed.

After some hard bargaining it has now been agreed that both the BBC and RTE can record Wexford. But the deal – bizarrely – is that they'll take the same performances with rival teams working side by side. In other words, two separate control rooms, two separate miking systems, two of everything. As a Wexford insider observed last week, it will be interesting to see which microphones the singers sing to.

Meanwhile it was interesting to see among the prominenten of the Wexford audience Mr Peter Mandelson, who found time to sweep down from Belfast and grace the most visible seat in the house (the centre front-row of the balcony, where the Teoasech sits) for two nights running. Wexford gossip had it that he'd come to the second night because it was sponsored by the Bank of Ireland. Good for loans, apparently.

DUMBING down continues at Classic FM, where crass editing accompanied the *Evening Concert* presented by Nicholas Tresilian on 19 October.

As a final item listeners were promised a performance of Beethoven's 8th symphony in F major in a recording by the London Symphony Orchestra. Instead up piped the last movement of Beethoven's 7th symphony in A major, which played all the way through before the 8th started.

By then there was only 20 minutes to go before the 11pm news bulletin, and all four movements of the 8th take about 30 minutes. But no problem for Tresilian: he simply stopped the recording at the end of the 3rd movement, didn't explain or apologise, and assured listeners they'd heard all of Beethoven's 8th symphony before going to the news.

NOW that the musical *The Beautiful Game* has opened, Robert Carsen, its director, has declared that he will do no more opera, the medium in which he made his name. He has sacked his opera agents IMG, concentrating in future on "straight theatre". How long can it be before the mastermind behind such subtle and challenging theatrical triumphs as EuroDisney's *Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show* ("including Wild West-style BBQ and All The Beer U Can Drink!"), for it was he, is at work for the RSC?

Some operaphiles may raise a cheer at Carsen's decision but he is not alone in this trend. Listeners to *Woman's Hour* last week could have heard opera director Francesca Zambello plugging her forthcoming production of the musical *Napoleon*. While she was happy to drone on about the importance of staging live popularist theatre and "telling the story", she was curiously reticent in mentioning the real reason that directors like herself are drawn to the medium of the popular musical, ie the bucketloads of money they stand to pocket.

'Lunchtime O'Boulez'

AD NAUSEAM

DO NOT be alarmed over the next few weeks if you catch someone in the street yelping like a dog. They are probably saying "Whassup", the slogan – and virtually entire content – of the latest Budweiser campaign.

Four men doing male stuff (watching football, drinking, standing up, sitting down) phone each other and scream "Whassup?" in various entertaining ways. "Whassup?", by the way, is American for "Hello, how are you?" This continues for 30 seconds until the Budweiser logo and the word "True" appears.

Though hardly *Citizen Kane*, it does have the sort of endearing silliness that makes a hyperactive child mildly amusing at times. Moreover, the fact that Whassup is all over the tabloids, being deconstructed for the vagaries of its metatext in G2 and well on the way to novelty-record status suggests it must be doing something right. So where did it come from?

Like almost all recent "cult" ads, not from these shores. For years Britain has puffed itself as the Mecca of advertising creativity, pouring scorn on the Japanese obsession with flatulence and France's penchant for the humble nipple. Unfortunately there's little recent evidence to bear this out. The last campaign to make the tabloids when there wasn't any other news was Flat Eric, a series of spots designed to drag Levi's back from the brink which featured a latter-day Sooty writhing inanely to a techno track. It was imported from France: puppet, director, music and all, and had nothing to do with Levi's until Bartle Bogle Hegarty tacked on the red label.

So it is with Whassup, a revamp of a short film directed by (and also starring – he's the one on the sofa) US indie director Charles Stone III. Stone sent it into Bud's agency DDB Chicago, who then simply chose a product to append it to. This, then, is an ad which had nothing to do with Budweiser, or indeed advertising.

Other recent winners have dispensed with the services of agencies altogether, such as Gap, who ruled that no one knew their company better than them, and simply got in a hot production house to make them stand out from the crowd. It worked a treat, ensnaring the fickle youth market at a throw while saving Gap a fortune.

All of which leaves captains of industry preparing to sign off eight-figure marketing budgets with plenty to ponder: if two of the most memorable campaigns in recent years have been dreamt up by unknowns on the street what are advertisers getting for the millions they pay the agencies?

LUVVIES

"Actors remind me of soldiers. They're so often sent into battle for hopeless causes, to be stuck on the barbed wire and shot down."

Sir Richard Eyre, *Daily Mail*

An occasional column devoted to gems from the acting profession. £10 paid for entries.

DOT CON

IT IS now virtually impossible to tune into any BBC "public service" broadcast without encountering an advert, usually promoting its internet retail division – mission statement: "beeb.com is passionate about shopping!"

However, not everyone at the BBC is convinced ut its latest "co-branded" partnership with Virgin astores Inc. This joint venture has kicked off a website aimed at Americans called hebritbeat.com, which combines entertainment "news" with hard sell merchandising.

Given how terribly busy Sir Richard Branson is – the original Virgin Records is up for sale; the fate of Branson's V2 label is in doubt; Our Price is being revamped; plans for more Megastores and digital distribution are unclear; and there's some business about a lottery bid, isn't there? – tiresome BBC dissidents question how impartial "news" stories about these subjects, and indeed Sir Richard and his artists, will be in present circumstances.

Perish the thought that the corporation's public service principles should get in the way of earning a few bucks – assuming the BBC's share ever arrives.

Pseuds Corner

"I do *petit point* while I'm flying to LA on business – my family crest, or a Christmas stocking for Valentina. Recently I made us all Cowboys and

Indians fancy dress from beads and feathers. All the other mothers thought I must be the nanny to be so organised."

JULIETTA LONGCROFT
"Domestic goddesses"
Evening Standard

This split down the book's middle, between text and image, is also the fissure known as David Beckham.

TERRY EAGLETON
Guardian

Oxford itself is a beautiful city in a beautiful county. No one has caught its atmosphere better than Gerard Manley Hopkins who, like me, took a double first at Balliol in Latin and German, Philosophy and Ancient History after school at Highgate.

DENIS HEALEY
Times Magazine

Now, as the curtain comes down, the author appears – strolling from Bishopsgate towards Spitalfields, from the city of reflective surfaces to the excavations of a medieval hospital. He meditates on the scrap of brick found by Christopher Wren: RESURGAM, I will arise. The ecstasy is sexual. Ackroyd, navigating a labyrinth of masks and disguises, recognises, at last, the face of that emblematic child from *Hawksmoor* and *English Music*. It is his orphaned self in a mirror of skin.

IAIN SINCLAIR
reviewing "London: The biography"
The Guardian

For heaven's sakes, I was on probation in college for 40 major pranks. I would do things like remove the clocks from the walls and tuck them into the counsellors' beds. I had shaving cream that I made question marks with on the door, it removed the varnish, but I was intending to make people think of metaphysical epistemological questions about reality.

CAMILLE PAGLIA
Independent on Sunday

Kent Redford, of the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York, said: "There will be a very hollow echo of a gaur in the birth of that animal to a cow in Iowa. To say that is a gaur is to disrespect all gaurs in all places where gaurs live. That animal will never live its life in true gaurdom, to wander in the forests of India and frolic with other gaurs and die and let teak trees grow out of it. That's the gaur I'm working to save."

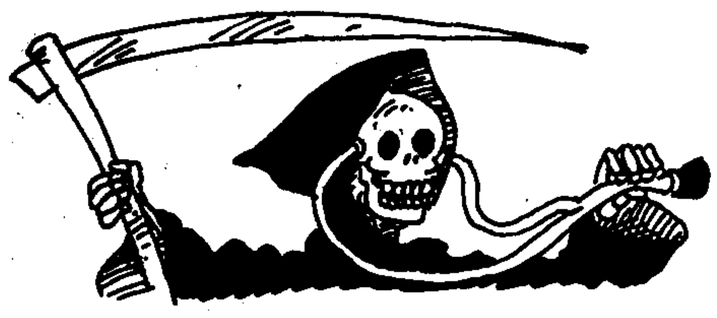
Daily Telegraph

"How many women these days can do the ironing without a bottle of L'Occitane linen water to hand?" says journalist Toni Rodgers.

"Domestic goddesses"
Evening Standard

CONTRIBUTORS: Juliet Blaxland, Michael Carlson, Anon, Jim North, A.J. Howie, Duncan Steel, Deborah Keily.

£10 paid for entries



DOING THE ROUNDS

"WHEN hospitals are fighting each other for survival, it's the ones with the most psychopathic doctors who come out on top." So said an Oxford surgeon about the downsizing of London's teaching hospitals under the Conservatives.

His observation is perhaps harsh, but the pathological institutional loyalty of doctors is an important barrier to improving the health service. Doctors are chosen for their extreme academic ability, and by their nature are obsessive, compulsive, over-achieving workaholics. You get plenty of hours out of us, provided you leave us alone to build our empires without criticism. Indeed, I've had more scrutiny for writing this column (including six hours in the witness box at a public inquiry) than in 13 years as a doctor.

This was not a theme explored in Channel 4's *Doctors on Trial* series, which tried to present research on medical errors dating back to 1989 as something new. Doctors are human; they make mistakes and around 40,000 patients a year die as a result. The programmes put this down to faults in "the system" (of which there are plenty) but didn't question the logic of a profession that allows its members to perform life-threatening surgery without ever having to prove they're any good at it.

As Dr William Pickering, a long-term campaigner for an independent medical inspectorate*, puts it: "No one has ever suggested that doctors are (or should be) omniscient; it's just that they shouldn't break simple, rudimentary rules. The vast majority of medical errors aren't rocket science — just people skimping on the basics because they know they'll never be observed or called to account."

Pickering has little faith in the ability of the government's Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) to pick up on these errors. At worst, its reviews could be a cosmetic tick-box exercise. Hospital managers seem more concerned that they will be a very expensive, politically-biased witch hunt. A survey of NHS trust senior managers in the *Health Service Journal* found that only 18 percent believed CHI was truly independent and 80 percent thought the publication of inspection reports would lead to a name and shame culture.

Even more alarming, only 17 percent of the trusts had a strategy in place for continuously monitoring and improving quality. So for most of the hospital service (and pretty much all of general practice) we still haven't got a clue if patients are getting an acceptable standard of care or not.

In such a climate CHI seems better than nothing, but whether their fleeting visits will do anything more than scratch the surface of institutions who have perfected the art of burying bad practice remains to be seen. The death rate for heart surgery at the Bristol Royal Infirmary is now less than half the national average, but one senior consultant believes there still could be problems in other areas because the prevailing culture that allowed the heart fiasco to happen has not changed much.

"The consultants who wield most of the power tend to be white Anglo Saxon Protestant males, Clifton College educated, Bristol trained and with a large private practice. Some of the managers too are very long serving and fiercely loyal to the hospital. Several of those who 'managed' the cardiac surgery team and who solicited funding knowing the results were poor are still in office and have never been disciplined. The system is as non-transparent as ever."

Meanwhile problems persist in Plymouth hospitals trust (*Eye* 1009) as 40 operations were cancelled after a sudden surge of emergencies. As one manager observed: "The real problem is that half the staff want to change the system but have been beaten into submission by the other half who came here to go sailing. We desperately need an injection of new blood."

And what of the new culture of openness the government (and Channel 4) claims is essential for the NHS to survive? "Everyone goes on about the need to own up to errors so we can learn from them, but when they happen, the NHS Litigation Authority tells us to shut up and string the patients along for as long as possible. It's bollocks."

M.D.

(* See *Regulating Doctors*, ISCS, ISBN 1-903 386-01-2.)

DOWN ON THE FARM

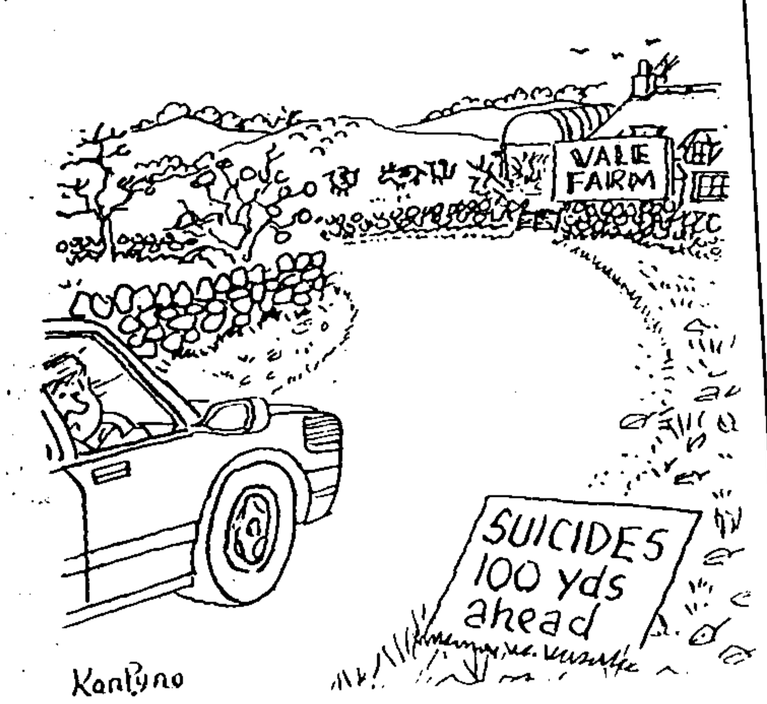
AMID the catastrophe that has engulfed every sector of British agriculture in the past two years, just one farming activity has remained reasonably buoyant: sugar beet.

Beet growing supplies Britain with half its sugar, 65 percent of it from East Anglia, where four sugar factories and scores of beet farms continue to run at a profit while pig, poultry and grain producers around them go to the wall.

But this cannot have pleased those mysterious denizens of the former DG6 in Brussels who call the shots in the common agricultural policy (CAP), and a large shadow is now looming over those Norfolk and Suffolk beet growers. The reason British beet growers have continued to enjoy immunity to the general farm crisis is that, under European quota rules, they are permitted to produce 1.14 million tonnes of sugar a year, contributing to total European union (EU) consumption of 12.8 million tons. In addition, under arrangements made to protect Britain's former Caribbean, African and Pacific colonies, these are allowed to supply 50 percent of the British market.

But now, without consultation, the European commission is proposing to allow another 48 third world countries to flood the EU market with an additional 2.2 million tonnes a year, rising within a few years to 5 million tonnes. Such a huge rise in cheap imports, largely produced by sweated labour, will inevitably result in a massive drop in EU sugar prices. This may please consumers if the supermarkets are kind enough to pass on the price cuts (on past record, a very big "if"). But it means Britain's beet growers may soon be joining their pig and poultry farmer neighbours in reaching for the suicide pills.

'Even Newer Muckspreader'



NOOKS and CORNERS

IT IS sad how few seem able to see through grime and decay to the architectural quality — and potential — that lies beneath. Take King's Cross, which most people associate with drug-pushing, prostitution and the sublime incompetence of British Rail and now Railtrack.

It is, in fact, one of the most interesting and rewarding parts of London, where two of the greatest of Victorian railway terminii are surrounded by comparatively humble Georgian and Victorian buildings. The area has survived several crass attempts at redevelopment and the early fatuous proposal to dig a Channel tunnel station underneath King's Cross station. Its interest was explored in a book published in 1990 (*Change at King's Cross*, edited by Michael Hunter & Robert Thorne) and threats to particular listed buildings, by My Lord Foster and others, have figured in this column over the years.

Now, when there is light at the end of the tunnel, as it were, what with the British Library, the projected Eurostar terminus and other improvements, this complicated urban fabric is threatened. P&O Developments wants to redevelop the four blocks it owns east of York Way with office blocks and a 250-bed hotel designed by Rolfe Judd, even though they form part of a conservation area.

The scheme proposes few shops and no dwellings, and SAVE Britain's Heritage describes it as "one of the worst SAVE has seen in recent years". It has also been excoriated by English Heritage, CABE [the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, the successor to the poor old Royal Fine Art Commission] and the Victorian Society.

King's Cross deserves better; especially if and when St Pancras Station becomes the gateway to Europe. At present these urban blocks have shops along the main street and contain cobbled yards surrounded by warehouses and several particularly interesting 19th century industrial buildings — all of which are to be demolished. It is the sort of area which, with an intelligent mixture of refurbishment and sensitive new build, could become as vibrant and commercially successful as Clerkenwell or Shoreditch. English Heritage, to its credit, has commissioned surveys and reports to demonstrate that the historic buildings can be reused commercially.

All very sensible. Yet this is unlikely to happen. The Government Office in London is backing P&O, as is Islington borough council, despite the fact that it is one of its own conservation areas which is threatened and regardless of the fact that the planning brief it produced for the area two years ago is completely ignored by Messrs Rolfe Judd. Sir Bob Reid, former chairman of the British Railways Board, is also pushing hard for redevelopment. He is chairman of the Kings Cross Partnership SRB (single regeneration budget), which has achieved practically nothing, so glittering new buildings east of the railway station by courtesy of P&O might suggest he has actually done something before time runs out.

SAVE has asked Richard Rogers and Ken Livingstone to support its call for a "world class solution" for this site. Fat chance. It is more and more clear that anything old or historic or unfashionable is more at risk under the Blair government than they have been for decades.

I MUST salute courage in fighting against the odds, especially when ending in honourable defeat. Following the recent decision by John Prescott, secretary of state for the environment, not to call in the application by Messrs Swiss Re to build the unerotic "gherkin" skyscraper designed by My Lord Foster (who else?) on the site of the Baltic Exchange blown up by the IRA in 1982, SAVE Britain's Heritage, supported by the tenacious and formidable Mira Bar-Hillel of the Standard and backed by the aggrieved Baltic Exchange, lodged an application in the high court to seek judicial review (Eyes passim).

Quite right too, as it was initially agreed that the badly damaged Edwardian building could and should be restored — after all, as the City Corporation pointed out, many restored Wren churches were in a far worse state after the Second World War. But then, in 1996, English Heritage incomprehensibly and shamefully changed its mind and decided that the Exchange could go.

SAVE argued that this case met three of the criteria for call-in for public inquiry; but, the evening before the high court hearing, Prescott finally supplied a document explaining his actions which argued that, although he recognised that the Baltic Exchange fell within the scope of his policy of call in, he had decided that because the Corporation of London "had considered all material issues in reaching its decision" an inquiry was unnecessary. SAVE was advised that it would be liable for huge costs demanded by rich and powerful Swiss Re and pulled out.

Again, I say, the conclusion is clear: when a developer wishes to remove a tiresome listed building, all he now has to do is hope the boys of the IRA will oblige with a bomb and then hire Norman, or Richard, to design a "masterpiece" to replace it.

'Pil

RUNNING SORE

FOLLOWING the Sydney Olympics, attention now turns to Manchester, host of the 2002 Commonwealth games. As chronicled in the *Eye* over the last six years, things are still not progressing according to plan.

Manchester city council, which is bankrolling the event, has always insisted the games will break even, with an estimated £62m coming from TV/radio rights and sponsorship deals. However, it has emerged that no one has yet bought the foreign TV rights for 2002.

To date only the BBC has pitched in, and its £14m, combined with £18m in sponsorship, leaves Manchester £30m short. Manchester has now dropped TWI, the TV rights agency which was in charge of negotiations.

Moreover, the six main sponsors include Manchester Airport which has put up around £2m. As the airport is owned by the city council, it's a case of money going from one town hall pocket into another.

Another of the major sponsors is the Guardian Media Group, the owner of the *Manchester Evening News*, which now runs regular puffs on the games. Security costs meanwhile look like being well above original expectations. The games are taking place in one of the most lawless, gun-infested areas of Britain, with the stadium and sports village built in "bandit country" two miles from civilisation.

How long will it be before councillors are begging the government, which has already announced an extra £10.5m grant, to bail out the event which it is still feared will result in embarrassing losses and a hefty tax bill for locals — as former games chief executive Jim Seligman predicted before he quit two years ago?

CAFT AS A BRUSH

LAMBETH council leader Tom Franklin's drive to make Lambeth a flagship borough within 1,000 days has taken a knock as Scotland Yard investigates allegations that Lambeth's Corporate Anti Fraud Team (CAFT) covered up wrongdoing by councillors.

A copy of CAFT's investigation into a proposed £7m development by private firm Frogmore Estates to build a 14-storey tower block behind County Hall was handed to Inspector Knacker after Tory councillor John Whelan received a complaint from a member of CAFT.

The "investigation" into whether any of the six members of the planning committee, or former leader of the council Jim Dickson, were guilty of lobbying on behalf of Frogmore, consisted of little more than asking them if they may not inadvertently have done anything wrong. To which they replied "no".

CAFT was alerted to the matter after Bishops ward councillor Leslie Boodram, a Labour party colleague of Dickson, told the fraud team she was concerned by Dickson's links with GJW/BSMG, a lobbying firm contracted by Frogmore Estates. Boodram thought it odd that Dickson, who is employed as a lobbyist by GJW/BSMG, should only declare that he worked for them the day before the Frogmore planning application was heard.

Complaints that CAFT were involved in a cover-up surfaced soon after the head of CAFT, Rachael Jones, chose two inexperienced officers to conduct what would normally be considered a complex investigation.

The CAFT report exonerated Dickson and found that his close colleague and chair of the planning committee Kevin Craig (who had emailed other members of the planning committee about planning issues, strictly against both the recommendations of the Nolan committee on standards in public life and Lambeth's own code of conduct) had acted merely out of ignorance. It concluded limply by censuring Craig for not ensuring his actions were seen to be whiter than white.

With attention focused on the controversial development proposal, planning committee members decided not to court further controversy and rejected Frogmore's application by four votes to two, leaving the door open for Frogmore Estates to appeal directly to the secretary of state.

The Curse of Gnome

THE Curse of Gnome has made a terrible double strike against Merseyside solicitor Kevin Dooley and nightclub owner Henry Williams, who sued the *Eye* in 1994 (see *Eyes passim*).

Williams is currently under investigation for drugs smuggling after he was arrested when police officers seized £164,000 worth of heroin and cocaine in a raid in Glasgow. His night club in the Huyton area of Liverpool, Ferraris — or Sharks as it was later known — was of course closed down in 1997, and soon after burnt to the ground. In the same year another club he owned, Straight Eights in Manchester, closed with VAT debts of £80,000. Last year he was banned from acting as a company director for six years.

Dooley has not fared much better. In June the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors (OSS) took the grave step of intervening in his practice, raiding Dooley & Co and seizing documents and client files.

Last month Dooley applied to have the intervention lifted. Mr Justice Neuberger later revealed that the OSS had intervened "on the grounds that they believed that Mr Dooley was knowingly and dishonestly involved in bank instrument frauds as well as possibly in money laundering". He proceeded to list at least nine likely cases of bank fraud in which Dooley had been involved. The appeal was turned down and Merseysiders eagerly await Dooley's forthcoming disciplinary hearing before the Law Society.

KNEE CAPPED

DAVID KENNEDY, assistant chief executive of Bradford council, is trying to silence critics of the council who have been using an obscure internet forum to raise questions about the way the council spends its multi-million pound "regeneration" budget.

Kennedy has written to the Los Angeles-based Network 54 corporation demanding the removal of "offensive" messages about the council posted on a discussion forum Network 54 hosts as part of the KDIS website, aka Bradford's alternative web magazine, *Knee Deep In Shit*.

But KDIS subscribers have responded by accusing Kennedy, who is responsible for regeneration, of a "heavy-handed" attitude with regard to the website that is "so typical of this council and its bureaucracy, who appear obsessed with secrecy and control".

TAKING THE MICHAELS

THE whole point of the Waterhouse report on child abuse in north Wales was to find out how the authorities could have allowed it to go on for so long and to ensure it never happened again on such a scale. So it is disturbing to learn that Flintshire county council has failed to act on serious allegations of physical and sexual abuse of teenagers made recently by council staff.

The allegations appear to have been barred from proper child protection proceedings, forcing the whistleblowers to take their complaint to the social services inspectorate (SSI) for Wales.

On 24 May the whistleblowers met the SSI's Maria Michaels and handed her confidential documents. They were promised a response in a couple of weeks. The documents were subsequently left in a hotel until staff alerted the whistleblowers who retrieved them.

When the Waterhouse Report lambasted the Welsh office for "persistently ignoring very serious allegations of child abuse", it was hoped lessons had been learnt. More than four months later there is still no sign of the promised speedy response from Ms Michaels.

High Principals

WHEN Judith Thrower's husband died last November, she thought she would be entitled to a small amount of paid compassionate leave from her job at Aberdeen College, where she had taught higher geography for 13 years.

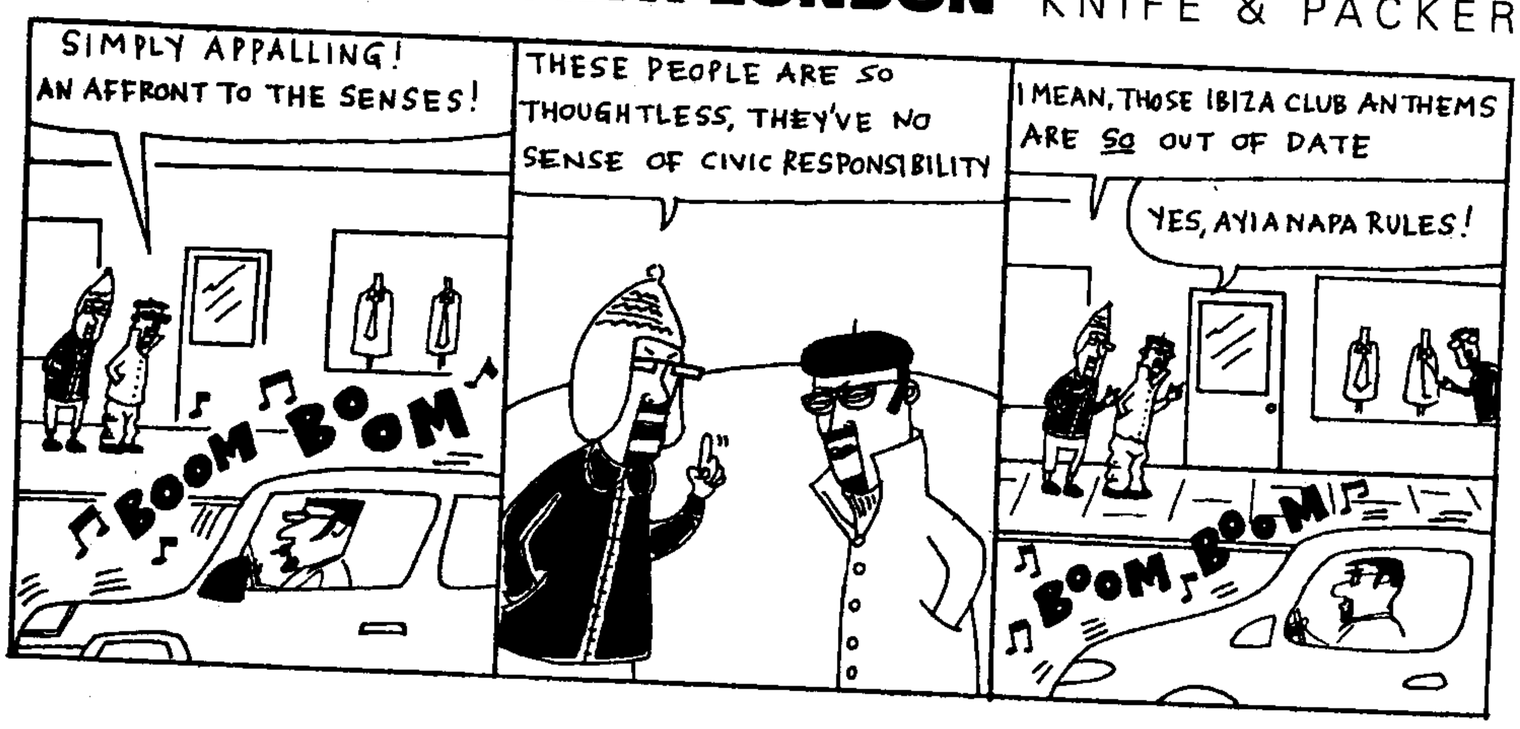
Along with many other lecturers at Aberdeen, Mrs Thrower's contract had been transferred to the *Eye*'s favourite lecturer supply agency, Education Lecturing Services (ELS), in 1997. When she was filling in her pay form she duly asked the ELS representative at the college if she could claim the two weeks she had missed. She was told that she could. So when she received her pay cheque at the end of the following month, she was disappointed to find the money had been deducted from her wages after all.

Her union, the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), was unwilling to help because Mrs Thrower's ELS contract meant she was effectively self-employed. But it did eventually agree to back her claim and ELS paid up in May. The extra money was attributed to overtime and not to compassionate leave, which contrary to the original advice of the college rep is not granted under ELS contracts.

Lecturers who demand their rights do not go down well with the profit-minded agency. The day before the start of the current academic term, Mrs Thrower contacted the college, surprised that she had received no communication regarding teaching arrangements. She was told that ELS had hired someone else to teach higher geography. When she phoned her union, she was again told she didn't have a case because of the short term nature of ELS contracts. She subsequently discovered her job had been given to a recent graduate with little teaching experience.

Three weeks into term the new recruit predictably quit, leaving a class of 25 students with no teacher. At the start of October, Mrs Thrower was contacted by ELS and the college asking her to come back and teach the course. Amazingly they were offering her £5 an hour less than she had been paid previously. She said she would come back, but only on condition that she was given a pay rise and a contract lasting until the end of the academic year. The college would not agree to these terms, and as the ELS had no other suitable candidate on its books, the course is now being taught on a temporary basis by another teacher at the college who has not taught higher geography since 1975.

IT'S GRIM UP NORTH LONDON — KNIFE & PACKER



TONY BLAIR decided to defend his unconvincing environmental approach last week on a Green Alliance platform. It was a perfect choice. *Eye* readers may recall that ordinary people can't join the Green Alliance, they have to be invited.

However, any firm can become a "corporate member" just by giving £2,500, plus Vat. In return, the Green Alliance offers firms "invitations to two exclusive dinners a year, featuring discussion with cabinet ministers, high level civil servants and senior environmentalists". As well as getting a front seat when Blair speaks, Green Alliance business supporters get access to Michael Meacher.

Last October Meacher chaired a Green Alliance seminar attended by government and business representatives to "brainstorm policies for the [Labour] party's internal review". It's probably news to Labour members that corporations financing the Green Alliance are involved in writing the party's policies.

When the *Eye* contacted the Green Alliance's Karen Crane, then responsible for the "Corporate Support Scheme" to ask why it seemed to operate like a lobbyist for hire, she said that firms "don't buy into us for that". Instead, she claimed, the Green Alliance offers firms the chance of "off the cuff" meetings with cabinet level politicians and the opportunity to "have the ears of ministers we have contacts with" along with information about legislation – which are of course precisely the services offered by a lobbying firm.

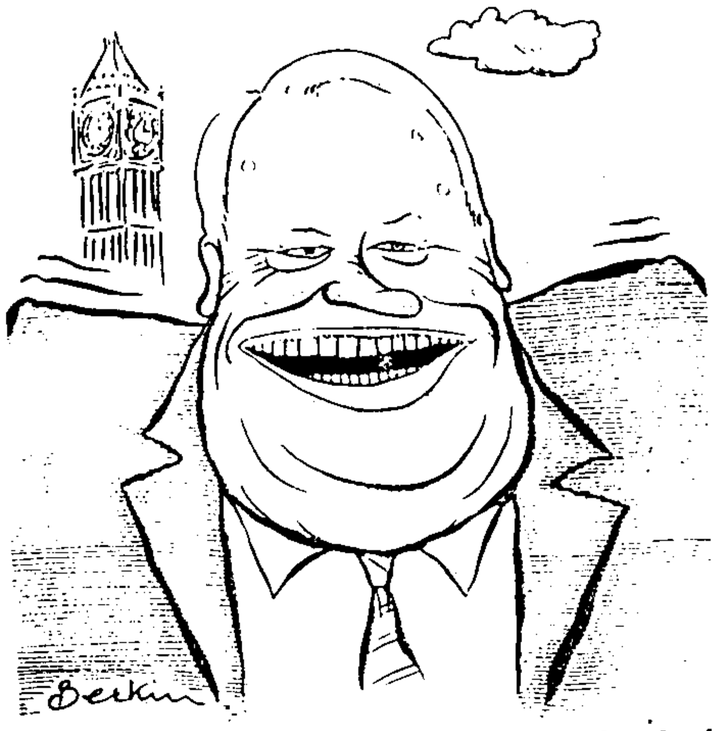
The firms who have rushed forward with their £2,500 show just how green the Green Alliance is. They include Thames Water, who came top in the Environment Agency's "hall of shame" as England's most-fined firm. Thames had to pay £79,000 worth of pollution fines. Other Green Alliance funders include oil giants Shell and Amerada Hess. BP funds the Alliance separately. Glaxo Wellcome, with its involvement in GM technology, also chips in, as does electricity generator National Power (now renamed Npower). And guess what? None other than the notorious Rio Tinto are the Alliance's longest backer – as well as the one with the worst environmental record!

LABOUR general secretary Margaret McDonagh at last faces a rival in her claim to be Millbank's biggest control freak: a pretender to her crown who is doing his best to turn the London Labour party into a policy and lefty-free zone.

The trainee control freak trying to ensure that trade union official and veteran trouble maker Geoff Martin isn't elected chairman of the Greater London Labour party is none other than David Wilkinson. This regional secretary of a party local machine who is supposed to be neutral in internal elections is instead doing his best to promote Martin's opponent, Chris Robbins, another trade union official who carries the Blair imprimatur.

So has Wilkinson learned anything from the mayoral debacle? Will he at least allow the comrades to debate whether Ken Livingstone should be allowed back into the party; or, failing that, will he at least allow them to vote, post Hatfield, on whether part-privatising London Underground as John Prescott wants is a good idea? No he jolly well won't.

According to Wilkinson's bizarre logic, readmitting Red Ken and Prescott's plans for the tube are not "contemporary issues". So the clod-hopping fixer has ruled out all resolutions referring to either.



Ted Heath reflects sadly that his pension isn't going to be paid in euros

ANY chance Clive Soley had of remaining chair of the parliamentary Labour party have been blown after he urged Labour MPs to vote for the Tory Sir George Young, the bicycling baronet, to replace Betty Boothroyd as speaker.

Even the most lobotomised "new" Labour backbencher could spot that Sir George was a Tory, and the vast majority voted for the man Soley *didn't* want, Michael Martin, who *is* Labour.

This is Soley's second major crime in as many months. As part of a two-person NEC team sent in to wrest the selection of Tony Benn's replacement in Chesterfield from local worthies, Soley ruled out popular frontrunner Helen Seaford. This has infuriated both the GMB union, of which Seaford was a prominent member, and backbench Labour MPs who know a stitch-up when they see one. Many of the same MPs who rushed out to place bets on Michael Martin are busy doing the same for Soley's likely replacement – former former foreign office minister Tony Lloyd

AS Labour MPs trekked into the voting lobby for Michael Martin, muttering at the treachery of Clive Soley, Margaret Beckett and others, they were delighted to spot that at least one prominent member of the government had cocked a snook at his Sir George Young-supporting colleagues on the government front benches.

Standing in the corner, animatedly chatting to Martin supporters, was the brooding figure of chancellor Gordon Brown.

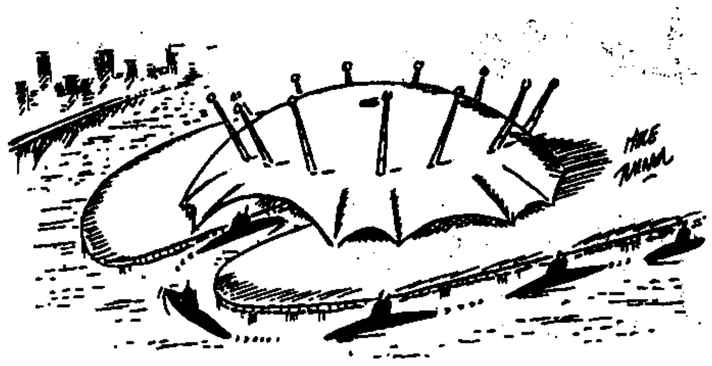
AS Millbank steps up the search for a safe Labour seat for Shaun Woodward, the latter's former colleagues in the Conservative party seem only too delighted to see the back off the multi-millionaire chancer.

As David Cameron, the Tory choice to replace Woodward in Witney, wrote in *Blue* magazine: "Those of us who remember him [Woodward] at Conservative central office recall plenty of cigar-chomping with newspaper editors, but precious little fresh thinking or new ideas. His strategic plan for the 'War Book' for the 1992 election was so long and woolly that Chris Patten dubbed it 'War and Peace' and shelved it."

TONY Blair's unofficial Middle East envoy Lord Levy may have been appointed to keep the Arabist leanings of the foreign office in check, but while at home in Britain he has delighted eavesdroppers with his crass declarations of loyalty to the prime minister.

"Tony and I blindly trust each other," Levy declared recently to gob-smacked colleagues. Presumably Levy cleared this breathtakingly crass remark with his new "media training adviser" – toadying *News of the Screws* columnist Sion Simon – first?

101 Uses For A Dome



Submarine Dry Dock

WAILS FROM WALES

THE new Lib-Lab coalition in the Welsh assembly looks set to be stifled at birth by allegations concerning Lib Dem leader Mike German's previous job as head of European funding at the body which overseas exams in Wales.

German left the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC) when he was elected to the assembly; but a PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) report from April of this year is damning about the financial management of the European unit during his time there. PWC discovered that in this period the unit lost around £250,000, and that as a result of a lack of proper documentation the WJEC might be forced to return some £429,000 of grant money to Europe.

In particular PWC focused on the activities of a private company, Education Training Grants Consultants Limited (ETG), set up in conjunction with a Dutch company to help channel EU funds. The accountants are concerned by the lack of proper procedure in setting up the company, and by the lack of information given by its directors to the WJEC board of directors. German is also in trouble personally over a £20,000 credit card bill. His critics have queried some of the expenditure listed as WJEC business.

On the same day as listing £577.74 spent on "car hire" from Paris to Perpignan, 16 March 1998, German spent £272.92 at Hertz, presumably on, er, car hire. His spending on books is also confusing. It is reassuring that he was sufficiently earnest to buy two books on how to learn Dutch before meetings in Amsterdam, but unclear why he felt the need to buy books on how to learn Chinese, as there are no records of any WJEC trips to China.

His purchase of the *London Restaurant Guide* also appears to have been a waste of time. Although he dined on the WJEC in restaurants in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece and Spain, and even purchased fish and chips in Cardiff on his credit card, he has never got round to dining in London. A further £350 to the Central Pharmacy in Cardiff was apparently spent on an ailing visitor, though how many packets of Beecham's that amounts to is anybody's guess. As readers of the Welsh press will know, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

German's feeble protests of a smear campaign, designed to derail the coalition, ring true only insofar as all the blame for what went wrong at the WJEC has been laid at his feet. The chief executive at the time, Ian Hume, who was German's line manager, and also the only other person at WJEC who was a director of ETG, has gone practically unmentioned. Intriguingly, Hume took early retirement from the WJEC at the height of the financial crisis, departing with a generous package estimated at £150,000.

He did not retire, however. His next move was a long way from the valleys to the London borough of Hackney, where the failing education service was the first to be privatised by the government. Hume was employed by Nord Anglia, the multi-million pound company taking over Hackney's education service, to mastermind the deal. Less than a month after the takeover, however, Hume mysteriously quit his post without a word of explanation.

Undeterred, Hume has now returned to Wales where he is working for a Cardiff-based firm, Quality Assurance Associates. At least his expertise in maintaining high standards in educational institutions will not go to waste – QAA has recently won a contract from the national assembly to implement a leadership programme for head-teachers in Wales.

'Backbiter'

Letters

Private Eye

Shot in the arm

Sir,

May I first congratulate your dynamic organ for yet again exposing on various occasions the lies and hypocrisy at the heart of the BSE/CJD conspiracy well in advance of the inquiry findings.

I can safely predict that we will, within the next 5-10 years, be going through exactly the same process with the MMR vaccine. The parallels are uncanny. The government are scared shitless at the thought of there being a link between MMR and Autism/Crohn's disease and have responded in exactly the same manner as they did with BSE. Expect a minister to wheel out their daughter in front of the cameras followed by a nurse with a big MMR jab to inform us that it is perfectly safe.

Worldwide evidence to the contrary is steadily building (and is well known to ministers) while increasing numbers of children's lives are changing drastically soon after receiving the MMR jab (ie classic autism symptoms such as loss of speech, loss of eye contact, decrease in social awareness and repetitive behaviour). The number of confirmed diagnosed children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders has increased drastically since the late 80s. This cannot be put down solely to improved diagnosis techniques. It is no coincidence that the MMR vaccine was introduced into the UK in the late 80s (and was only tested within the UK for a few weeks before being released).

Very few people are against vaccination in general but the number of people refusing the vaccine is reaching epidemic levels in various parts of the country so unless the government acts we will have the worst of both worlds: a reintroduction of mumps and measles and an increasing number of vaccine-damaged children.

STEVE LAW,
(Parent of child with autism)

Newtongrange, Midlothian.

All in a good cause

Sir,

It's obvious Simple Simon Burridge of the People's Lottery (Letters, Eye 1013) doesn't read his Eye regularly. If he did he'd know Camelot and GTECH have both taken regular pastings in your magazine since the lottery began in 1994.

Also, his claim that Saint Branson will take nothing "in the form of management administration or royalty charges" is not quite correct. Although Branson won't be charging "overheads", like the rest of his non-British consortium because he will actually be doing bugger all in running the lottery, he will be getting millions of pounds of free publicity for his wretched Virgin empire which is just as good as dosh in the bank.

Yours faithfully,
WENDY ALEXANDER,

London SW14.

Get Welling soon?

Sir,

If chief executive Stuart Welling is struggling to spend his budget at the Royal Sussex County Hospital (Eye 1012) then perhaps I can point him in the right direction.

My late father had the misfortune to spend a number of weeks in the hospital last year. Its shortcomings were too numerous to list here, but a couple of incidents give an indication of the standard of "care".

Patients in the coronary care unit were on one occasion told there would be no evening meal because the hospital had run out of food. Eventually, at 7.40pm, they were offered soup and a roll.

My father was twice moved from the unit in the early hours — 1.30am and 2.20am — to free his bed for patients who were more critically ill. The second time he was moved he had angina, had suffered a stroke and was recovering from pneumonia. You might conclude from this that there were no spare beds in coronary care. You would be wrong. There were plenty, as well as stacks of equipment lying idle. They could not be used because of a shortage of nurses.

Yours,
MAXIM LEVENSON,

London SE16.

Lookalike

Archer

Robinson

Sir,

I've recently noticed the similarity between these two justice-seekers. Are they egotistically related?

Yours,
PETER BRADLEY,
Kettering, Northants

Office politics

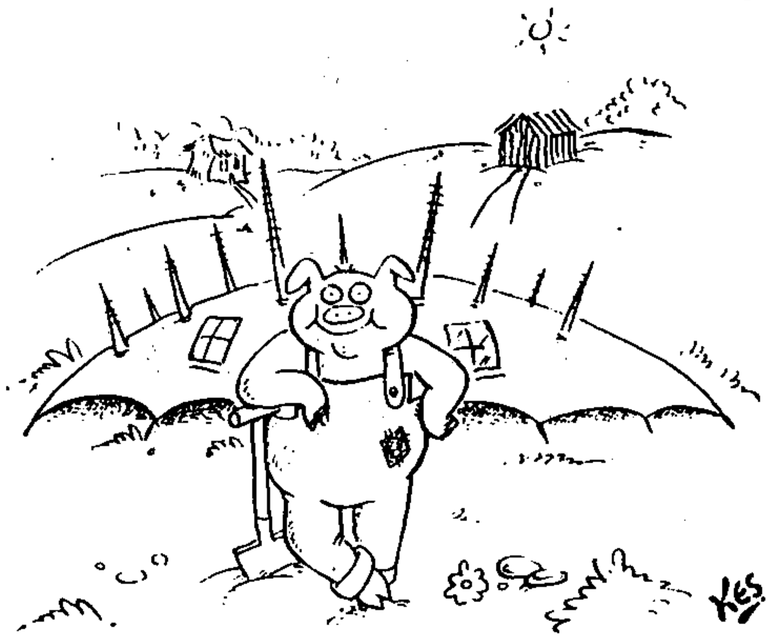
Sir,

Facts do tend to get in the way of a good story. The "staggering" £187,000 you reported as being spent on my already "palatial" office is to be spent on a new centre for staff development and training, which is presently housed in a portacabin. The first planned event in the new centre will be a research seminar on verifying sources — there is still space available for the editor or members of his staff.

Your publication coincided with approval by the university council of the final phase of investment of over £20m in improved student, staff and teaching accommodation on our campus.

Yours sincerely,
PROFESSOR JOHN R. TARRANT,

Vice-Chancellor, University of Huddersfield.



The cleverest little pig built something that even the big bad wolf wouldn't bother visiting

Fisk among equals?

Sir,

Calling Robert Fisk an "ego-crazed" "adrenaline junkie" is a bit heavy-handed (Letter from Lebanon, Eye 1012). He's one of the very few reporters not beholden to the increasingly devastating machinations of the western powers in the Middle East.

He writes fearlessly, regardless of whom it may disadvantage. His reports on Lebanon, Iraq and now Palestine/Israel are clear, accurate and Eye-like in their unwavering critique of double standards and Orwellian language.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID HOWELL,

Sydney.

Perry funny

Sir,

Dumb Britain in Eye 1013 was a little unkind ("Name a bird that can also be a man's name"). Surely we can't expect contestants on Family Fortunes to know Peregrine is also a chap's name?

Yours sincerely,
LES STENNETT,

Preston.

Drug trade

Sir,

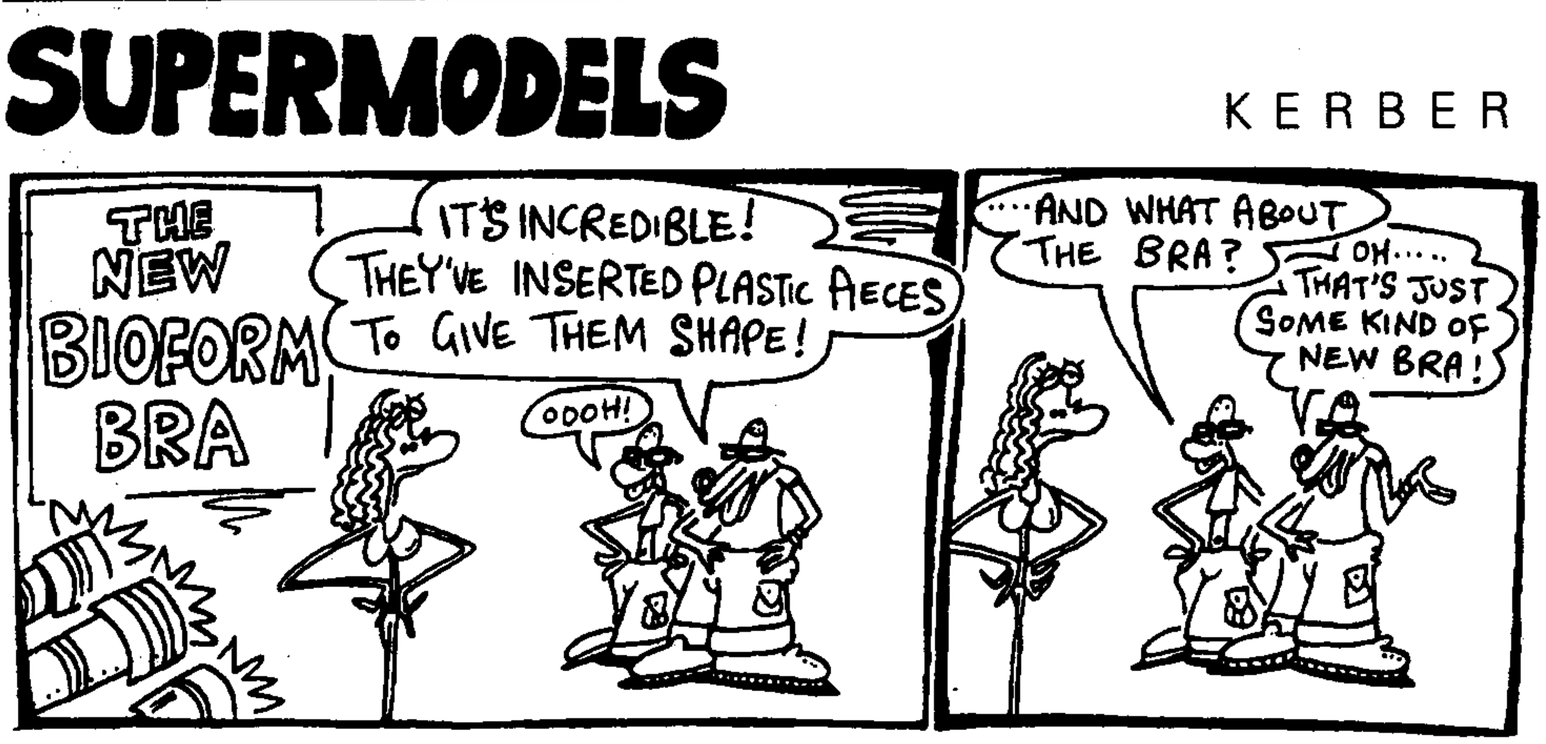
I have no idea whether the assertions of Steve Alker are true, and that Aventis dropped a product because it was only effective in "unprofitable" sleeping sickness. I do, however, know other things about drug companies such as Aventis, which, possibly, Mr Alker does not.

Aventis is an entirely research and development based company. It has no raw material to sell. Therefore, in order to stay in business, it has to produce a steady stream of drugs, as many of which as possible are innovative, unique and meeting a previously unmet need. The effort that goes into developing one drug is huge (10 years and half a billion dollars is the average). They then have, on average, 10 more years left on their patent to get this money back and make profit. If economic forces dictate that there is absolutely no chance of getting their money back producing a drug to sell to people with sleeping sickness, then it is very clear that developing this drug is not an option. Given the likely cost of developing the drug, to do so would be to commit suicide. Putting a company like Aventis out of business would be very bad for its employees, the economy and last of all, (and most importantly), we, the patients.

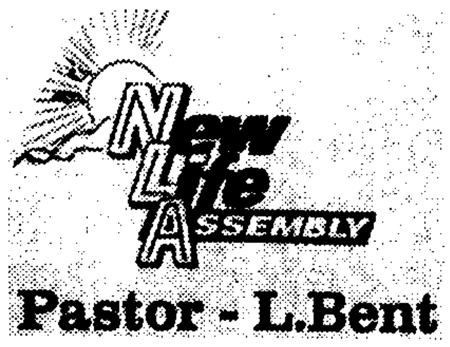
This patent system works well in countries that can afford to foot the bill. The competition ensures that the effort to develop new drugs is intense, and drug companies are very good at it. It does, however, mean that the drug industry is largely an industry of the developed world, where we can afford the technology. Whilst this is not ideal, does Mr Alker have any alternative suggestions (as opposed to smug finger pointing) that are realistic and would make treatments available to those who need it?

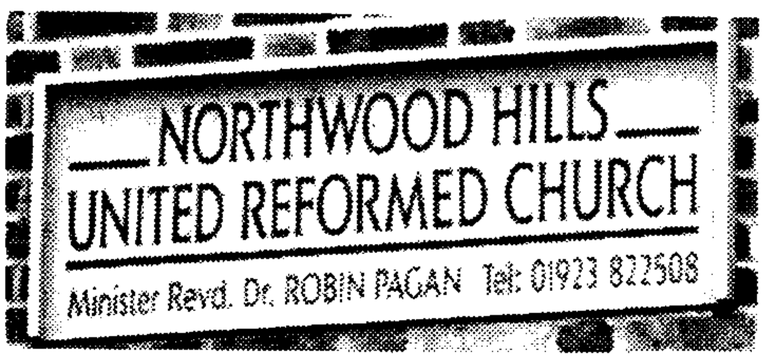
Yours sincerely,
JOHN G MUIR,

(Not in any way, shape or form an employee or representative of Aventis).



I-SPY





Submitted by Gareth Martin and Stephen Hill. £10 paid for similar submissions. *(SAE required for return of photographs. No transparencies.)*

Freight and wrong

Sir,

It was Christopher Padley who missed the point (Letters, 1013). Blame will not solve current transport/fuel problems.

Elimination of "double movements" of freight would entail a vast increase in warehousing, cost of stock in hand, handling, loss of economies of scale, greater damage & shrinkage, longer delivery times, thousands of additional transport depots, possibly more not fewer lorries, greater labour costs & loss of load consolidation advantages. Suppliers no longer send out dozens of smaller vehicles to individual supermarkets and likewise supermarkets no longer cater for long queues of smaller less efficient delivery vehicles instead dealing with far fewer consolidated deliveries. Distribution centres were created to cut these costs and make these efficiencies.

A gigantic investment in a parallel freight rail system and an equally gigantic factory and retail relocation programme might help. Cheap energy is key but if you want, in Padley's words, "to avoid the need" to move freight, a project of Stalinist proportions to relocate and partly "dis-integrate" much of the commercial and urban infrastructure of the UK might also be necessary. As B. Ching said, things are much more complex.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES CAWLEY,

Via e-mail.

Suits her

Sir,

If you really must insult the intelligence of your readers by attempting to enlighten us about the nature of a garment regularly seen in the cities of this country you could at least do so accurately. The churidar kameez worn by Cherie Blair at the Hindujas' Diwali party (Street of Shame, 1013) was an Indian suit comprising tight trousers and a long shirt not, as you ignorantly suggest, a sari whether "designer" or not. Your reputation for being at the precision edge of journalism is looking to be in serious danger.

Yours,
BARRY BUTLER,

Via e-mail.

Miss, Mrs, missed

Sir,

The letter from your correspondent Phillip Roe in the current issue says that Lady Forkbender was never married. Her name during the Wilson era was Marcia Williams, married to Eddie Williams whom she met while they were students at Queen Mary College, London University.

Yours etc,
NORMAN SANDERS,

Ipswich, Suffolk.

Anagram Corner

Sir,

Just wondering if it's too late to point out that "Shadow Cabinet Minister" may be arranged as "Cannabis! Who's tried it? – Me!"

Yours etc,
CHRIS MURRAY,

London E6.

Sir,

In outlining the limited role of the Royal Family, Lady Gavron forgot to mention the ennobling of whizzkids and their overrated wives. An exclusive menu for the chosen ones, plain fare for the rest of us. The anagram of LADY GAVRON contains a message for non-Blairites: NO GRAVY, LAD.

Yours sincerely,
ANNA LOMAX,

Luton, Beds.

Sir,

Given the extraordinary abuse suffered by this officer, I felt an anagram coming on!
Sergeant Girpal Virdi = Evil pigs arrange dirt!

Yours,
NAME & ADDRESS SUPPLIED.

Colemanballs

£10 paid for contributions

"England could have been 1-0 down on two occasions now."
JOHN MOTSON, BBC
(Kenny Cleworth)

"Scotland don't have to score tonight, but they do have to win."
BILLY McNEILL, Channel 5
(Lewis Jones)

"For some it's the ultimate job, for the others it's the last job."
KEVIN KEEGAN
(John Adams)

"...the Derby fans walking home absolutely silent in their cars."
ALAN BRAZIL, Talksport
(David Hobbs)

"I know that Gareth Barry has been told by Howard Wilkinson to take a long hard look at these with his left foot."
JOHN MOTSON, BBC
(Mike Nash)

COLEMANBALLS 10 – on sale now £3.99

HOM SAP

AUSTIN

Letter from India
from Our Own Correspondent

A STATE-sponsored and invidious Hindu fundamentalist movement is afoot across secular India, gravely threatening our minority Muslim and Christian communities. Fuelled by senior cabinet members of the intolerant Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led coalition government, it aims to impose Hindutva or Hindu hegemony upon the country.

This point was firmly driven home when federal home minister Lal Krishan Advani recently joined thousands of Hindu fanatics from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) or the National Volunteer Corps, committed to racial intolerance, in saluting their flag which for decades has spelt terror to millions of Muslims and Christians.

Advani, who is also the prime minister in-waiting, graced the RSS show of strength at its 75th anniversary at Agra, the city of the Taj Mahal, near Delhi, and was photographed with his hand across his chest in the traditional RSS salute to the flag symbolising a Hindu state. Paying glowing tributes to the RSS he described it as the BJP's spiritual and moral guide. The home minister's presence at the RSS meet is akin to your own Jack Straw attending a meeting of Britain's National Front.

What makes it worse is that the RSS, which controls the BJP, has anointed Advani as successor to ailing prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and told its coalition allies that it should either accept this decision or be willing to sit in opposition. Knowing Indian politicians' hunger for power, Advani's succession is assured as is the RSS's role in planning India's future.

"The RSS exercises a moral influence on the government and prime minister Vajpayee and I share a historical bonding with it and there is no question of disassociating from it," Advani proudly declared at Agra. This declaration came after RSS head K. Sudershan had stated that the new millennium would witness an explosion of Hindu hegemony and demanded that India's 17 million Christians, who form around 2.5 percent of the country's population of more than a billion, be brought under a state-controlled indigenous church as in China.

He accused the Vatican of intolerance towards other religions and demanded that all foreign churches and their organisations be banned. The RSS chief also called upon India's 130 million Muslims to publicly acknowledge Hinduism's mythical gods Rama and Krishna as national heroes and to "join the mainstream" – a euphemism for knuckling unctuously under Hindu control.

The RSS, which lists the prime minister and Advani along with several senior cabinet colleagues as members, was founded in 1925 as a "religious militia" for the Hindu community to protect it from being "defiled" by outside influences like Islam and Christianity. It is organised along lines similar to the Italian Fascist party, daily imparting basic military drill to its cadres and involving them in ideological discussions in hundreds of neighbourhoods. The assassins of Mahatma Gandhi were educated in such a school and murdered him because of his secular outlook and policy of appeasement to the Muslims.

Though the RSS was banned for some years following Mahatma Gandhi's murder in 1948 it was never outlawed. In the early 1950s it launched its political wing, the right-wing Bharatiya Jana Sangh, which later became the BJP with RSS activists occupying top positions.

Over the past two years Christian missionaries have been killed, others attacked and several churches bombed. A Hindu zealot murdered Graham Staines, an Australian missionary, and his two sons in January 1999 as they slept in their jeep in a remote village in eastern India by dousing their vehicle with paraffin and setting it alight.

Since January more than 55 attacks have been launched against Christians, their organisations and institutions. These include the murder of a Christian missionary in a small town 50 miles north of New Delhi and the death of his Christian helper in police custody. Bombings of four churches followed in the adjoining states of Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Karnataka in the south in June.

Christian leaders hold Hindu fundamentalists responsible for the attacks and blame the federal government for failing to protect them. They said Hindu fundamentalists were threatened by the church's secularity in their aim of bringing about Hindu hegemony.

FUNNY OLD WORLD

COMPILED BY VICTOR LEWIS-SMITH

o "We used to joke about the Ting Yeah Effect, but not any more," Wesley Siu told reporters from his trader's booth in the Hong Kong Stock Market building. "I don't believe in the phenomenon, but others do, and that makes it happen. Every time Ting Yeah appears on television, the Hang Seng index plunges, and this time it dropped almost 2,000 points within days. If you ask me, ATV should take the programme off the air, for the good of the country."

Wesley was describing a phenomenon that has been affecting the Hang Seng intermittently since November 1994, when the character of Ting Yeah (played by actor Cheng Siu-chau) first appeared on a Hong Kong television station. "Ting Yeah is the star of ATV's futuristic series 'Divine Retribution'," explained another insider. "He's a legendary trader who takes on nasty foreign investors, and every time he has a new series, the market crashes, without fail. The worst catastrophe was in 1997, when the market dropped 5,300 points during the period that the show was being aired. The Oriental Daily newspaper conducted a survey recently which showed that 59.08% of investors think that the programme influences the market, so of course it does. Trading on the floor has got thinner and thinner, because we're all waiting until the series is over. Personally, I like Cheng Siu-chau, but I hope his show doesn't get recommissioned. It's costing me too much money." *(Finance Asia, 21/9/00. Spotter: Steven Irvine)*

—o—

o *"Article 2013 of the Local Authorities' Code obliges the mayor to provide for the rapid burial of bodies which are certified dead within his territory. However, the cemetery in Le Lavandou has run out of space, and my plans to build a new cemetery in the village have this week been blocked by a court in Nice, following a complaint lodged by the Green Party. I have a legal duty to bury bodies, and I cannot respect it, so I have been forced to issue a decree. Henceforth, it is forbidden and highly illegal for any person not in possession of a family vault to die on the village's territory. I will take firm and rapid action against any miscreants.*

"By order, Gil Bernardi, Mayor of Le Lavandou." (The Star [Johannesburg], 21/9/00. Spotter: Biellik/Henderson)

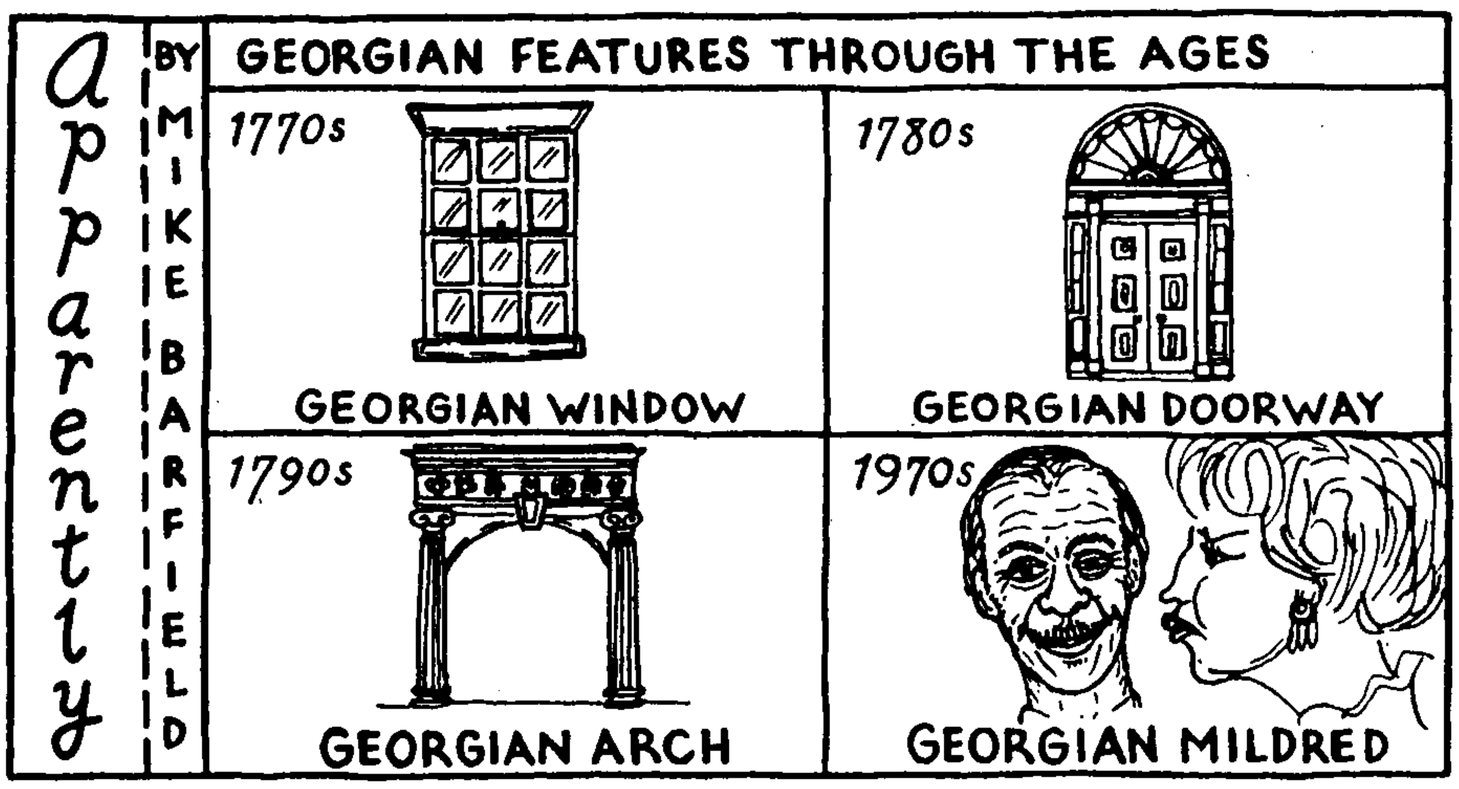
—o—

o "I am sincerely sorry for Michael Lord's family," said Barbara Asher, addressing reporters from her dungeon in Quincy, New Hampshire, "and I would love to clarify things. What happened to their son was every dominatrix's worst nightmare, and it's taken its toll on me emotionally. I am still in a lot of pain over this."

Fifty-one-year-old Asher (known professionally as Susie Tit-Lasher) was speaking for the first time about what had happened in her dungeon on July 3rd. "I'm a very thorough, conscientious, and careful dominatrix, but Michael liked to be heavily restrained during the sessions. I tied him up, and left him dangling while I went upstairs to make the coffee, and when I got back, he'd stopped breathing. I tried CPR and mouth-to-mouth, but it was too late. When I realised he was dead, I panicked and phoned my boyfriend. He came round, saw the scene, and said it would be best if we cut up the body with a saw and disposed of it, so we did. We fed some

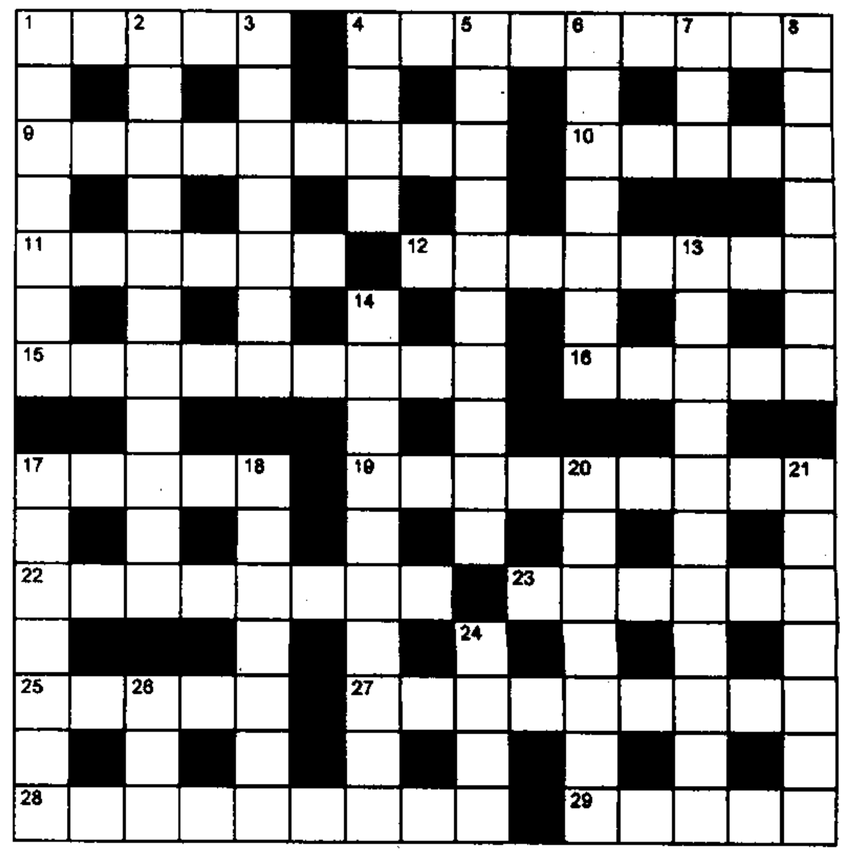
of the remains to the local stray dogs, then put the rest of the bits in eight trash bags, and dumped them in Augusta, Maine. That's the last I saw of Michael. I desperately want to reach out to his family, because I can understand how hard it must be to lose someone. And I'd love to clarify things further, but my lawyer has advised me not to say any more, in case the family file a wrongful death suit against me."

Police confirmed that they have searched an Augusta dump eight times, but have come up empty. They added that a prosecution was unlikely, unless at least half of Mr Lord's body was recovered. *(The Boston Herald, 27/9/00. Spotter: Paul Wallace)*



EYE CROSSWORD 169

by Cyclops — *£100 prize*



ACROSS

1 Bound to give head to Brenda (5)
4 Lawyer wed to Blair, returning sarcastic remark, is a bit of an anticlimax (4,5)
9 Cautiously approach women, sexually – then paw! (9)
10 First, wife to Bill; second, a means of defence (5)
11 Telephone call had by peer (6)
12 Howe's climactic reverie of screwing Maggie? (3,5)
15 Shag Penny first and last, taking no precaution – a minor irritation (5,4)
16 Right-wing extremist outcast, Redwood's first to go north (2,3)
17 Frank, the traitor (5)
19 Camilla's opening bra wantonly, almost dirty – Brian's unsightly erection appears ... (9)
22 ... he was not ready for scarlet woman to take lead (8)
23 Renounce sanctified royal's family (6)
25 Behind on English model is something worth having (5)
27 Grimond: a sort of Franco and enemy of the English (4,2,3)
28 Ring put on cross Madonna, perhaps? (3,6)
29 Condoms? China has seconds! (5)

DOWN

1 Goes one better than Brown – it's good for a wind-up (7)
2 Holder's after sitting member's presentation pack (6,5)
3 A percentage of Brenda's lot? (7)
4 Lose erection, lose love and let go (4)
5 Peak, being content with erection (10)
6 Outside prison, bloke's get-up is a public disgrace (7)
7 Somewhat feudal terrorist group? (3)
8 Match attendant gives footballing has-been retainer (4,3)
13 Hawking's encouraging agent: "Wait for ring, then lecture" (11)
14 It's not good for a person's image, showing chopper on duty (7,3)
17 Regulations flouted by Wales (3-4)
18 Writer's crack turned up with trifle (7)
20 Even a copper has such a habit (7)
21 Ineffectual types – but no plonkers, these guys (7)
24 Parliament gets laid! (4)
26 Ways to get cross making love (3)

£100 prize to first solution opened on 10.11.00. Entries to 'Crossword', Private Eye, 6 Carlisle Street, London W1D 3BN.

Solution to Crossword No. 168

Winner: LUCY ELDER

ACROSS: 1/27 State opening of Parliament 9 Evita 10 Strong man 11 Crusade 12 Stipple 13 Press 15 Insolvent 17 Lord Mayor 19 Prole 21 Gentile 23 Neo-Nazi 25 Synagogue 26 Idiot.

DOWN: 2 Tribute 3 Tiara 4 Obscenity 5 Euros 6 Ian Hislop 7 Game pie 8 Anaesthetist 9 Escapologist 14 Summing up 16 Serengeti 18 Run into 20 Oration 22 Eager 24 Opium.

ST ALBION PARISH NEWS

Incumbent: Rev. A.R.P. Blair MA (Oxon)

Hullo!

And this week I've got something really important to talk about! Saving the planet! And you can't get more important than that!

Which is why I dedicated last Sunday's family service to the theme of "the environment". And my sermon was so popular that Mr Campbell has asked me whether he can print it here instead of my usual letter!

I said, "Of course, Alastair, a really cool idea! I'm all in favour of re-cycling!" So, enjoy!

Tony

The Vicar's Green Sermon

I would like to begin by welcoming you all to St Albion's on this lovely autumn morning. You know, we hear a lot today about how young people don't care about anything any more and have no ideals.

Well, let me tell you a story about something which happened to me last week. I came home one night to find my son Euan, with a group of his schoolfriends, sitting around in the kitchen chatting over a bottle of Smirnoff lemonade. And you know what they were talking about? Let me tell you. One of them said "Euan's gone a bit green," and another one said "Yes, very green, actually," and they all agreed about how green Euan was. He, being a modest young man, tried to play it down, but in the end he did admit to "feeling terribly green" and he was so worked up about it that he had to go to bed. And that set me thinking about the whole natural world and how vital it is to us all – trees, plants, fish, animals, the lot! And we are the custodians for all these wonders of nature!

We are just the steward while the master is away. And that is why it is our duty to do everything we can.

Genetically modified tomatoes, global warming, the ozone layer, the rain forests, wind farms, unleaded petrol. Aren't all these things of enormous importance?

And that's why it's specially important that we should all think about these things very carefully.

We need to take a long hard look at where we have come from and where we are going! Because we are all coming from somewhere, and we're all going somewhere else, whether we like it or not!

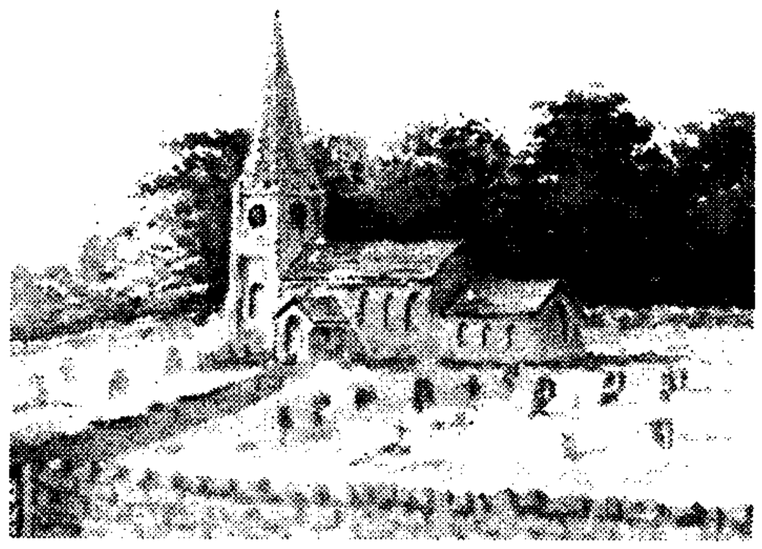
There are hard choices to make. A field of wheat or an old people's home? A hedgerow, or a new NHS hospital?

A sparrow on the wing, or a day care centre for toddlers?

These are the tough decisions we have to make! All of us!

So let's hear no more about easy options and "going green" just for the sake of it!

That sort of argument may be alright



when you're in the sixth form. But when you're in the real world, you have to "get real"!

So, let's have a few seconds of silence to think about all these important questions, before we sing our new chorus from 100 Hymns For Sustainable Development:

There is a greenfield site far away
Without a city wall
But since everyone needs a place to live
We're going to build over it all.

Chorus

Green, green, green, green,
We're the greenest greens you've
ever seen,
We all want to save the planet,
Make it safe for John and Janet!
Because we're green, green, green, green!

© Words and Music T. Blair and J. Porrit.

To Remember In Your Prayers

The Rev. Ashdown, the former minister of the United Reformed Liberal Democratic Church, who is still very bitter about the failure of his attempt to join our two congregations in an oecumenical merger.

May he be given the strength to face up to his own failure, not only as a pastor but as a husband. Our prayers go out to his wife Jane who has to face the grim prospect of spending the rest of her life with such an obvious bounder. T.B.

A Big Thank You!

...to all of you who wrote in to say how moving you found my reading from the Book of Isaiah at Mr Dewar's funeral. Some of you obviously thought Mr Brown's address was a bit over the top, but I thought he did pretty well, considering that he's not a vicar (and is never likely to be!). T.B.

Millennium Tent Update

P-Y Gerbil writes:

Mesdames, messieurs,

Rollez-up pour le grand Ceremony de Closing du Tente Millennial sur Décembre 31. Dansez all nuit à la musique très groovy de la Ministère de Sound! Par coincidence amazing, un night-club owné par M. Palumbo, un grand ami de s Mandelson, le "Ministère du Sound-Bite"! Nudge, nudge, wink, wink, comme vous Anglais disez! Entrée absolument libre au tente (fermé à 6pm). £75 pour le disco.

Une Amazing Nuit!
P-Y. Gerbil
Grand Supremo du
Tente Millennial.

PS. Après janvier je serais available pour any poste importante, eg, le directeur de Railtrack ou sweeping les rues!

Ooh-la-la! Zere is nothing like a Dome!

Parish Notices

Women's Group: There was a very good turn-out for a talk by the Vicar's wife on "Modern Parenting – Aren't I Marvellous?". Cherie began by accepting an award as "The Most Successful Mother In The Parish". She then told us that despite the difficulties of combining motherhood with a career, she always put her children first. We were all then very impressed when, after three minutes, her mobile phone went off and she was summoned to her office to meet a very important client, a lady, who is suing Southern Water because she thought her cup of tea tasted funny and she wanted £2 million compensation. There was only time for one question from the floor, which was Mrs Harris, who asked, "Who is going to pick up the children from school?" "Tony, of course," came Cherie's reply, earning her a standing ovation. A.C.

On sale now – SON OF BLAIR – THE SEQUEL £4.99

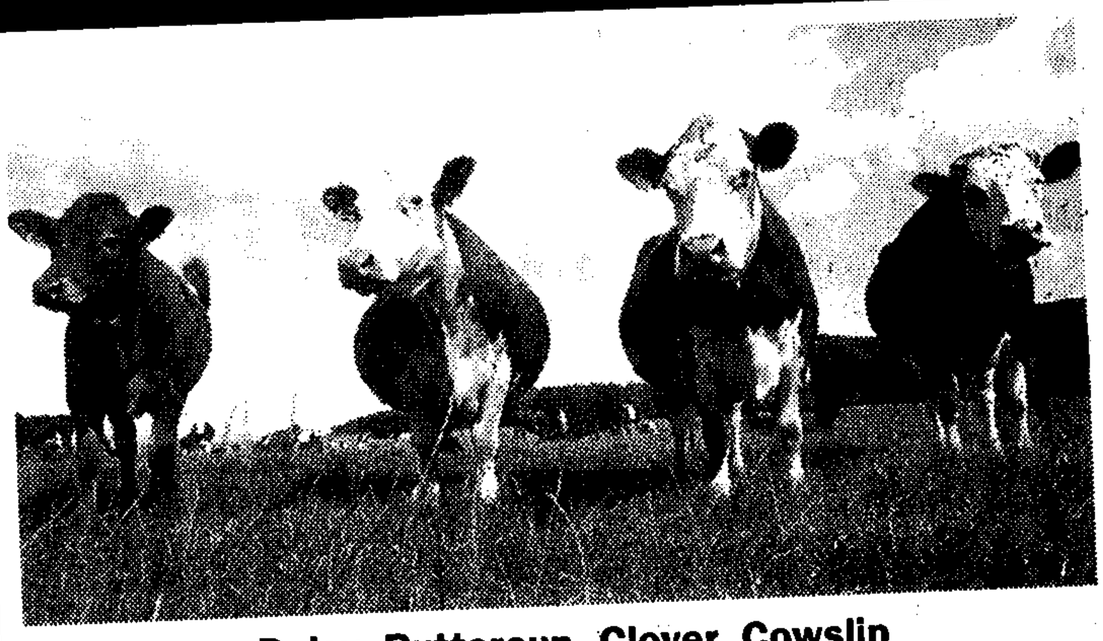
GERALD CORBETT
An Apology

IN THE last few days, in common with all other newspapers, we may have given the impression that we thought Gerald Corbett should stay on as Chief Executive of Railtrack. A number of articles claiming that Mr Corbett was the only man of sufficient standing to solve the problems of the Rail network and that it would be a crime to let such a capable and responsible manager retire from the industry may have led readers to think that we in some way supported the decision of Railtrack not to accept Mr. Corbett's resignation. A front page headline reading "Don't Go Gerald — For God's Sake!!" may have reinforced this unfortunate misapprehension.

We now realise that Mr Corbett is in fact an idiot who should be sacked immediately for presiding over the biggest cock-up in transport history. We further accept that a few gales and a bit of flooding should not be used as an excuse to let him off the hook for his appalling management and that the sooner this complete incompetent is fired the better. Our headline "Go Gerald — For God's Sake!" makes this absolutely clear.

We would like to apologise to readers for any inconvenience caused by this confusion, which was caused by a failure on the editorial line.

BSE INQUIRY Guilty named



Daisy, Buttercup, Clover, Cowslip

BSE REPORT – New victim

by Our Mad Cow Disease Staff
Lunchtime O'Moos

THE Government has issued a warning to the public to avoid any contact with the "Phillips Report", commonly known as "Mad Mandarin's Disease".

Those who have swallowed it have complained of feelng confused and disorientated. Said one victim, "It's terrible. After only a couple of pages I didn't know what I thought any more."

Tasteless

Experts say that the Government knew all along what the report contained, but still did nothing to stop it being freely available to the general public.

Now that the Report is in the chain, there are fears that it will contaminate *(Continued p. 94)*

SOMETHING IN BRITAIN WORKS SHOCK

by Our Incompetence Staff
John Bulls-Up

THE ENTIRE country was in a state of shock last night when it was revealed that something in Britain was working normally.

There were immediate calls for a full judicial enquiry to look into the reasons behind this latest emergency. "It is a national disgrace," said one commentator, "that something in Britain should have been allowed to function without going disastrously wrong and ruining the lives of millions of people." He continued, "What is wrong with us that we cannot stop something like this happening?"

(Rotters)

Private Eye's Cut-Out-And-Keep
Train Chaos Update

Southwet Trains

Operating services between Neasden and Hartlepool. Four trains under water. Hoping for one train under water by New Year.

Great Western Trains

Operating cowboy services on all lines. Hope to continue until further notice.

Hornby 00

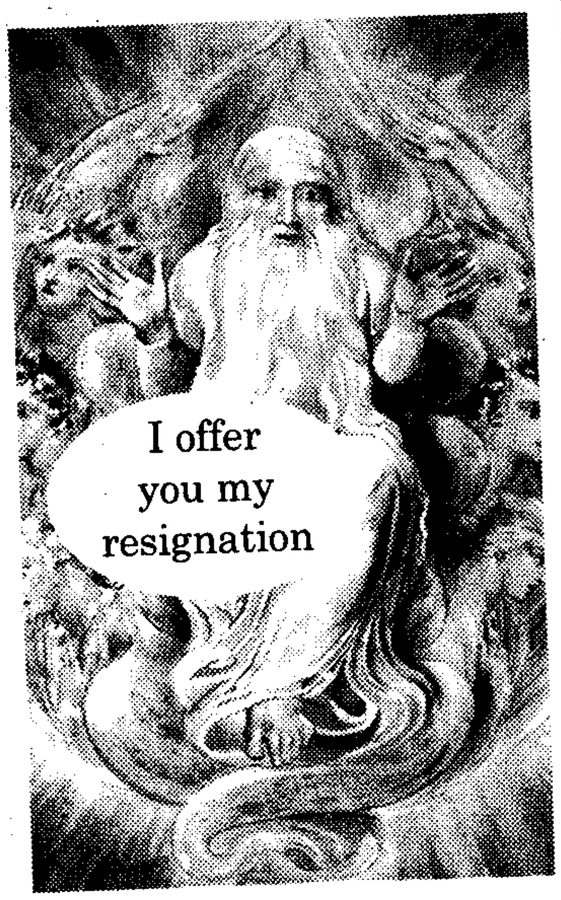
Operating in the children's playroom. No services due to power failure as a result of storm damage.

Bovril North East

Runs services between Isles of Sheppey and Mull. Gale force winds of over 90mph are currently blowing the 09.05 across the North Sea in the direction of Finland. Expected to arrive on time.

(That's enough train chaos update. Ed.)

STORMS LATEST



Traditional Rhymes About British Heroes

No. 94. The Scarlet-Faced Pimpernel

They seek him here
They seek him there.
Those journos seek him everywhere.

Is he at home?
Is it a wrong number?
That damned elusive John Selwyn Bummer *(surely 'Gummer'? Ed)*

PROTECTING THANET'S CUNTRYSIDE
Adscene – Thanet

SALLY JOCKSTRAP
THE VOICE OF SPORT

TIME TO CHOOSE

THE SUDDEN resignation of England Football boss Henry Cooper last year has left a giant headache for the MCC. There is clearly a shortage of top swimmers to fill the key post of the sport of kings – the beautiful game as the great Stirling Moss once described golf.

In my book there is only one man big enough to fill Henry Cecil's boots – Mary Peters.

She, more than anyone, can bring rowing glory back to Wimbledon. She could call on the assistance of young Alex Higgins who has forgotten more about hockey than most can remember, to form the team of youth and experience.

Come on, Tony Banks, give Kevin Keegan the job before he decides to quit.

● Sally Jockstrap will be signing copies of her new book *Red Rum, Fastest Greyhound on Earth*, at World of Leather, Nuneaton, next week.

WHAT YOU MISSED

Radio Four, Today programme

...which I think rules out Venables.

Sue McGhastly: Thank you, Garry. And now the news headlines.

Man With Beard *(B. Perkins, for it is he)*: There's been a rail crash near Hatfield. The cause of the crash is *not yet* known, and a spokesman for Railtrack said, "It's too early to speculate."

McGhastly: Thank you, Brian. As you rightly say, it's too early to speculate as to the reasons for this dreadful disaster, but let's go over live to our reporter Phil Time who is sitting next to me here in the studio.
Phil, I know it's too early to speculate...

Phil: That's right, Sue, it's too early to speculate.

McGhastly: But nevertheless, I wonder if we can begin to work out why this terrible accident might have happened. I mean, could it have been terrorism?

Phil: That's right, Sue, although Railtrack are still saying that it's too early to speculate. That's the message we're getting from Railtrack at this moment in time.

McGhastly: Well, the crash could alternatively have been down to driver error.

Phil Time: Indeed it could, Sue. But right now the message from Railtrack is that it really is too early to speculate.

McGhastly: What about a giant fireball crashing to earth from outer space hurling hundreds of bodies into the air? I know it's too early to come to any definite conclusions, but would that fit with the evidence we have so far?

Phil Time: That's a good point, Sue, and I'm sure that is one of the possibilities the enquiry will be looking into.

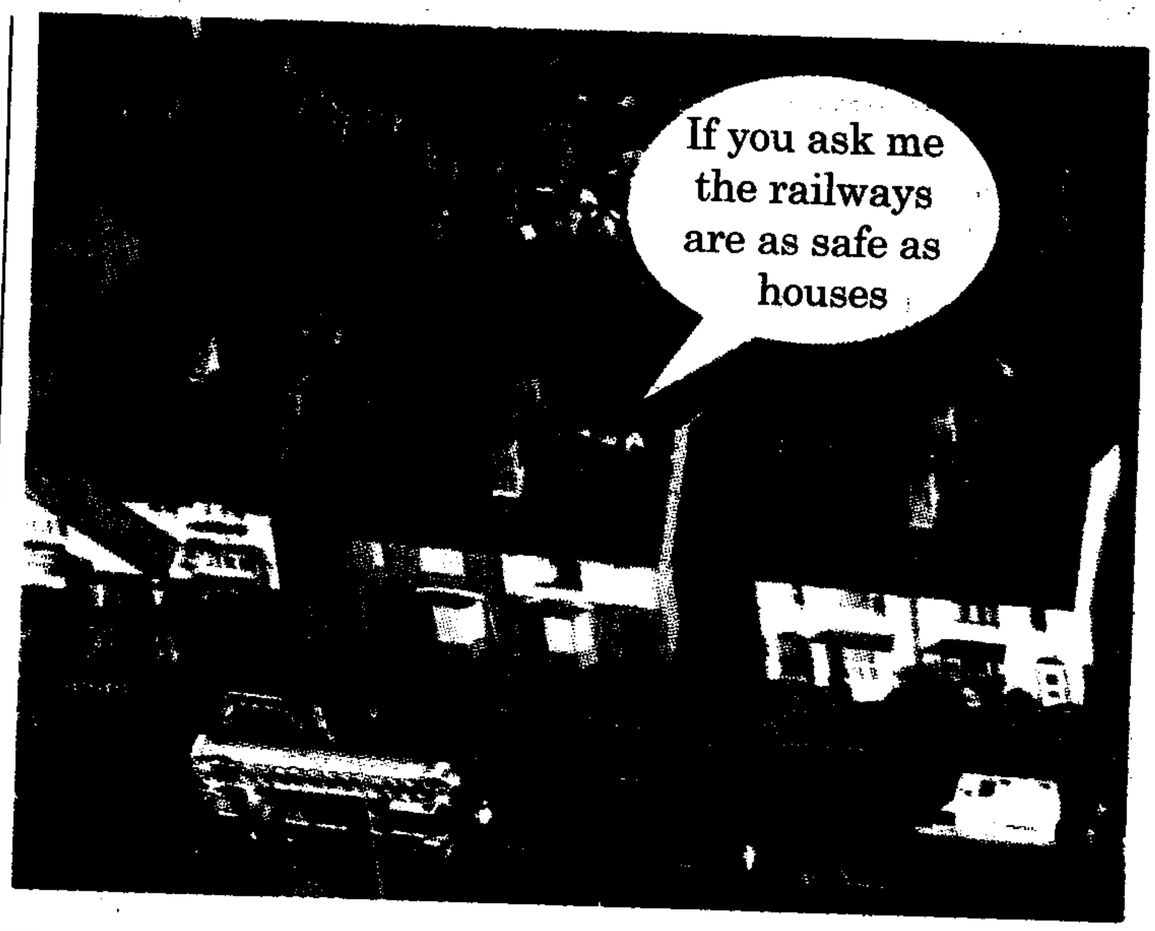
McGhastly: Well, I'm sure we'll be returning to that after the news, and possibly by that time we'll have a proper body count. But now it's Thought For The Day with the Chief Druid.

E.F. Harbottle, Chief Druid: You know, when I heard the news just now of this train that has been destroyed by an atomic fireball near Hatfield, my thoughts immediately went out to all the emergency services, many of whom I am sure are practising druids...

James Naughtie: And I'm sorry to interrupt you, Chief Druid, but news is just coming in that a record £250,000 advance has been offered to Sue McGhastly for her memoirs. Sue, I know it's too early to speculate, but do you think honestly anyone is going to buy your book?

John Humphrys *(for it is he)*: Come on, admit it, Sue, it'll be just a load of boring anecdotes about sitting round this table drinking BBC coffee and listening to the Chief Druid...

Chief Druid: When I heard the news about this record advance for Sue, my heart went out to all the thousands of people who might be bored to death by reading it, and I felt *(Cont'd. KHz 94)*



REGULAR CHURCHGOERS

Yesterday and Today

Yesterday

Today

Ramadhan 1420

This notice is particularly for all Muslims, Ramadhan this year is expected to begin around about November 19/20 depending on the sighting of the moon. We still have a prayer room in the GMH building,(the one marked with "Danger 240 volts" on the door) so, if you are interested in using this room to pray, Please contact me for room location and a prayer timetable if you need one.

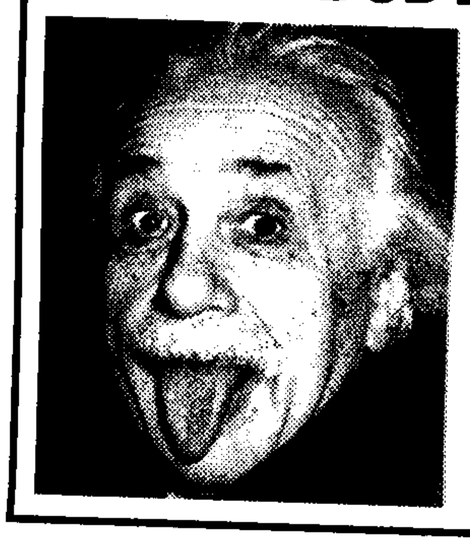
DETR staff notices

Pop Music Is Rubbish

by George Michael

IS IT me, or has popular music taken a turn for the worse recently? All we seem to get nowadays are manufactured boy bands who all sound the same, dress the same, and what's more – they even look the same! Record chiefs aren't interested in *real* talent anymore, all they want is pre-packaged pap which is aimed at the lowest common denominator. Speaking of which, the new Wham! Christmas compilation album will soon be on sale, featuring such memorable hits as: *Wake Me Up Before You Go Go, Club Tropicana* and many, many more. Anyway, where was I? Oh yes – Westlife, I mean, they've simply *got* to be miming, haven't they? And as for Boyz... *(cont. page 94)*

EINSTEIN: THE NEW FACE OF BUDWEISER



"WAZZAA!"

Letters to the Editor

Those Trafalgar Square Statues

SIR – So, Mr Ken Livingstone has never heard of General Sir Henry Havelock-Gussett (1809-97), the so-called "Saviour of the Hinduja Kush".

Well, let me tell Mr Livingstone that there are still plenty of us who still revere the memory of this great English patriot and soldier, who will be remembered long after the likes of Mr Livingstone and his newts are forgotten.

Havelock was my great-great-great crested newt (Surely "grandfather"?) and was venerated by generations of Punjabis, who knew him simply as "Gussett sahib". His relief of the siege of Hatterjee during the Mutiny was one of the finest feats of arms in the entire history of the British Empire, only equalled, may I suggest, by Mr Andrew Flintoff's sterling 83 in the more recent one-day siege of Karachi last week.

Sir Herbert Gussett
Dunsepoysin, Dorset.

SIR – Much as Mr Livingstone would no doubt prefer to see his heroes Joseph Stalin and Che Guevarra commemorated in Trafalgar Square, many of us will continue to honour the memory of that illustrious diplomat, warrior and scholar Sir Hubert Dalrymple Gussett-Napier (1841-1910).

It was he of course who sent the famous telegram to Lord Palmerston bearing the single word "Avocado", which as every schoolboy knows is the Latin for "I have relieved the siege of Mafeking". Within minutes of the news arriving in London, bonfires were lit the length and breadth of the land and schoolchildren were handed a small cake known ever afterwards as a "Napier Bun".

No wonder Mr Livingstone wishes to sweep away thousands of years of British history, and put up instead statues of Lady Gavron and Peter Tatchell.

Brigadier The Rev. Henry Napier-Gussett
Old Meldrew, Berks

SIR – Your correspondent Sir Henry Napier-Meldrew is quite wrong when he repeats the old chestnut of the "Avocado telegram". What Sir Hubert Gussett-Napier in fact cabled to the Foreign Office was "Fortunavo" – ie, "I am in luck now" – which the Latin scholars of the diplomatic corps immediately recognised as heralding the news that he had lifted the siege of Lucknow.

Sir Herbert Napier-Havelock
The Old Dome, Greenwich

SIR – My suggestion for two statues in Trafalgar Square would be Posh and Becks. She would "spice" up the Square, while he would "score" with all the tourists.

Mike Giggler
(Via e-mail)

SIR – Your readers may be interested to know about my train journey into London this morning. When I rang up at 3.45am to ascertain whether the River Carter Uck had subsided sufficiently to allow trains to resume service on the line between Ucknow and Charing Cross, I was told to "press the star button twice and *(cont. p. 94)*

TURNER ABUSE CLAIMS LATEST

by Our Showbiz Correspondent
Ivor Noshame

THERE was profound shock last night as all readers of British newspapers revealed they had been battered by a constant barrage of stories about Anthea Turner.

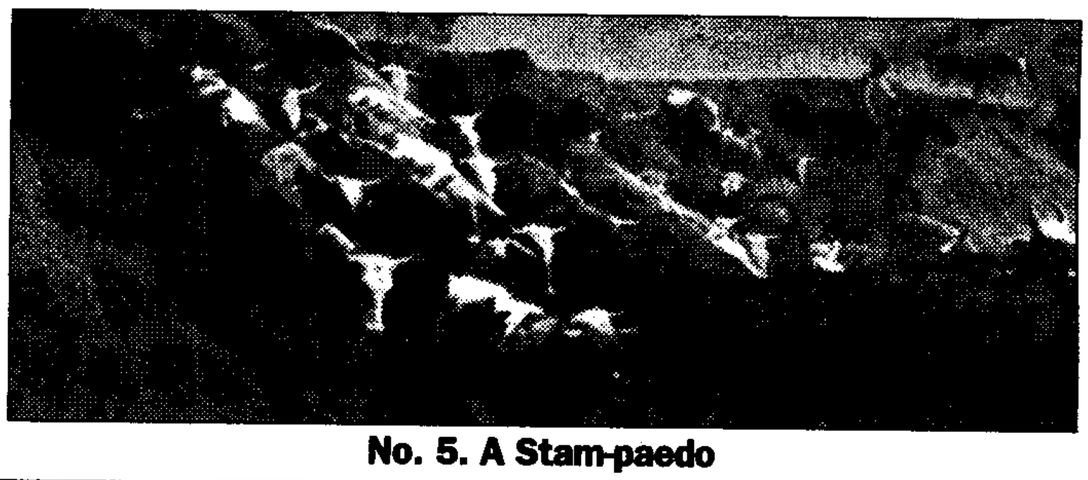
"I couldn't believe it," said one tear-stained reader. "I bought my paper and found myself being constantly assaulted with stories about Peter Powell, Delia Bovey and Grant Bovey I felt cheap and used."

Frank Bruno Brookes

There was even more shock this morning when the Daily Mail claimed it had been comprehensively "beaten" to the story about Anthea Turner being knocked around by a former boyfriend.

"We shelled out thousands of pounds to serialise her autobiography yet the only half-decent scoop went to the Sun," said a tearful senior Daily Mail *(cont. p. 94)*

101 Things You Can Mistake For A Paedophile



No. 5. A Stam-paedo

BRA-VE NEW WORLD

by Our Home Affairs Correspondent
Charles Phwoar

A UNIQUE new design of "super-bra" has brought relief to broadsheet newspaper editors everywhere.

Its special new design allows editors uncomfortable with their circulation plenty of room in their papers for pictures of scantily clad models in their underwear.

"It's amazing how a few candid pictures of near-naked women can provide an uplift in sales and provide real support for my desperate efforts to stay in my job," said one XXXL Editor.

YOUNG BRITISH ARTISTS — BY BIRCH

Those Pantsdown Diaries In Full

Continuing the Times's exclusive serialisation of the most sensational political document since the autobiography of Norman Fowler

April 28th 1996: I am in Bosnia. Again! Tonight I had a vital meeting with General Jamjarovic, leader of the breakaway PLZH militia, who is seeking a rapprochement with the Serbo-Croat warlord Ashcan. As I told Jeremy Paxman later on Newsnight, the really vital thing is to remember how important I am.

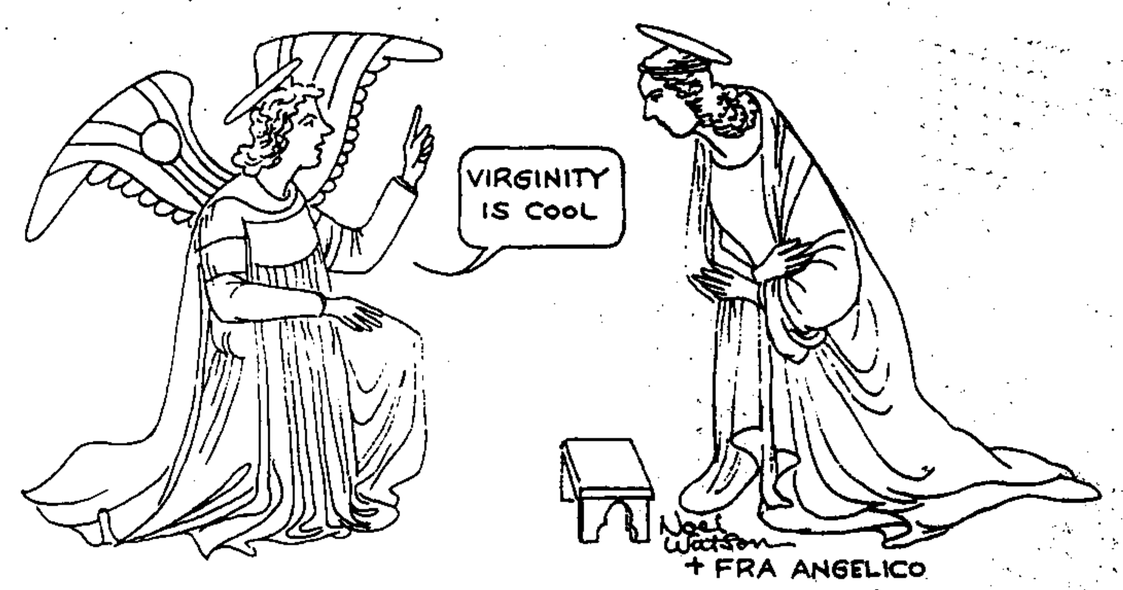
Jan 17th 1997: Tony asked me to come round to his place for a "secret session". This is the big one! Tonight I feel I am really going to score! Tony greets me at the door. he is wearing tight Levis, a lovely blue shirt from Hawkshead (£9.95) and some groovy own-brand trainers from Asda (£13.99). He led me down into the cellar with a conspiratorial wink. "We don't want anyone to see us, particularly Gordon!" he said. "I've been thinking," he went on, "about what you said last Tuesday. But I'm not sure we really want to be going quite so far down that particular road. I'm just not ready for it, as of now." I felt curiously disappointed, not to mention frustrated. When we spoke before, he seemed so positive, so committed. Surely he couldn't be thinking of stringing me along and then dumping me, could he?

May 1st 1997 Disaster! The News of the World has found out about me and Tony! They've got all the lurid details – times, places, who said what to whom, even our private messages! I rang my friend Richard Holme, and confessed everything. "Oh dear," he said, "we really have been a naughty boy, haven't we? You need a good spanking." I was hoping for something more helpful, so I rang Tony on our special private line. "Ashdown?" I heard his familiar voice asking. "I think you must have a wrong number. I've never heard of Mr Ashdown and I'm a happily married man. Ask my wife, Gordon."

© *Lord Pantsdown of Yeovil 2000.*

***Tomorrow:** My poor wife Jane is really hurt when she finds out about my affair. I am so sorry I write it all up in my diary and get it published in the Times so everyone can read it again.*

New Testament Labour



FAT OLD MAN RETIRES

by Our Entire Staff **Phil Pages**

A FAT old man yesterday announced that he was retiring.

Now aged 84, the Fat Old Man has been in the same job for 50 years. *(Reuters)*

ON OTHER PAGES

Picture special "The Fat Old Man when he was a fat young man" **2, 3, 4, 5**

The Fat Old Man's hobbies **6, 7, 8, 94**

NOT ON OTHER PAGES

Fat Old Man's links with Chinese Money and loony cults.

POETRY CORNER

In Memoriam

So. Farewell then
Connex South-East.
You have lost
Your franchise.

"We apologise for
The delay to
This service."
That was your
Catchphrase.

This poem terminates
Here.

We would like to thank
You for choosing it
And hope to see you again
Soon.

E.J. Thribb (17.39 [delayed])

HEATH'S PRIVATE VIEW

SPECTACULAR BODIES

AT THE HAYWARD GALLERY

THE BOOK OF BARAK

Chapter One

1. And it came to pass in the days of Bar-ak that peace had come upon the land of Is-rael.
2. And when we speak of "peace", we speaketh only in relative terms.
3. And, lo, one of the children of Israel, named Ariel son of Sharon liketh not the peace between the children of Is-rael and the Arab-ites, the Araf-ites, the Hamas-ites, the Hezboll-ites and all the other-ites that dwell in the land that was once Pales-tine.
4. And Shar-on girded up his loins and went up unto Jer-u-salem, where he came unto the place that is holy to the Arab-ites, even the Dome of the Rock.
5. Then the Arab-ites saw Shar-on walking in their holy place as if he owneth it, and they did wax exceeding wroth.
6. And the Arab-ites spoke one to another, asking "Who among us will cast the first stone?"
7. And they cried out with one voice, "We all will."
8. Then they gathered up rocks from the ground and cast them at the sons of Is-rael.
9. And Bar-ak waxed even more wroth than the Arab-ites, and said "The sons of Ara-fat have asked for it this time. Let the smiting begin."
10. And so it came to pass. There was smiting throughout the land of Is-rael, and the sons of Go-liath, with their sling-stones, did not do very well against the sons of Dav-id, with their attack helicopters, armoured assault vehicles and heat-seeking missiles.
11. The score at the going down of the sun was as follows (and ye who wisheth not to knoweth the score may look away now): Children of Is-rael 112, Palestine 7.
12. And behold, in the midst of the smiting, there appeared unto both sides a vision, even of Clin-ton, he that cometh from the land of US and is called "the Maker of Peace".
13. And he calleth together Bar-ak and Ara-fat, that they might lay down their arms and fall upon each other's necks and pro-claim that from that day forth their two peoples would live in peace forever, even as the winged hornet lieth down with the mountain badger in the noonday sun.
14. And so it came to pass, in the town of Sharm-el-Sheikh, which is the Hebrew for "photo-opportunity".
15. But sadly when Ara-fat and Bar-ak returned each unto his own land, they found that their people were too busy casting stones and smiting to hear the great news that peace had come upon them.
16. And Ara-fat rent his towel, even the cloth that is on his head, and curseth Bar-ak, saying "Goeth ye, even unto hell."
17. Then Bar-ak cried aloud unto his people, "Who can doeth business with such an man? Let the smiting continue."
18. For it is the only language these people understand, even as the prophet Kabbi hath laid down.
19. And Bar-ak calleth unto Sharon saying, "Let us sit down together, you and I, even as the dove sitteth down with the hawk that eateth him for breakfast."
20. Then rose-up the Arab-ites and the Hezboll-ites and the Saddam-ites and all other-ites and cried "Let there be int-i-fada, which is to say war without end against the children of Israel."
21. And so it came to pass, even unto the ninety-fourth day.

BROADCASTING STANDARDS COMMISSION

RULING

In relation to numerous complaints received, the news coverage of Lord Holme's resignation has been judged to be excessive in terms of sexually explicit material. There was no justification for the scenes of sado-masochism described by television journalists nor for the gratuitous use of the words "spanking" and "mistress" in every possible sentence. The complaint against the media is therefore upheld (by Lord Holme).

A full and complete transcript of this ruling is available at www.skin2fetishaction.com

TV HIGHLIGHTS

HOLME FRONT

BBC Tuesday 8.30pm

LORD HOLME reveals his incredible front as, after he's forced to resign as chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Commission after two affairs, he says "I've fallen on my sword."

FATHER TED

Channel 4 Thursday 10.30 pm

CLASSIC episode of long-running farce sees Father Ted (Heath) ensuring that Dougal (Michael Martin) becomes Speaker of the House of Commons despite Mrs Doyle (Gwyneth Dunwoody) repeatedly shouting "You won't, you won't, you won't."

EYE RATING: Out of order

Mr Meddleton added: 'Royal Mail values the loyalty of its customers and hopes they will bear with us through this traumatic time. Unfortunately, one in four of our delivery employees in Lewes are in the same boat as their neighbours,

Sussex Express

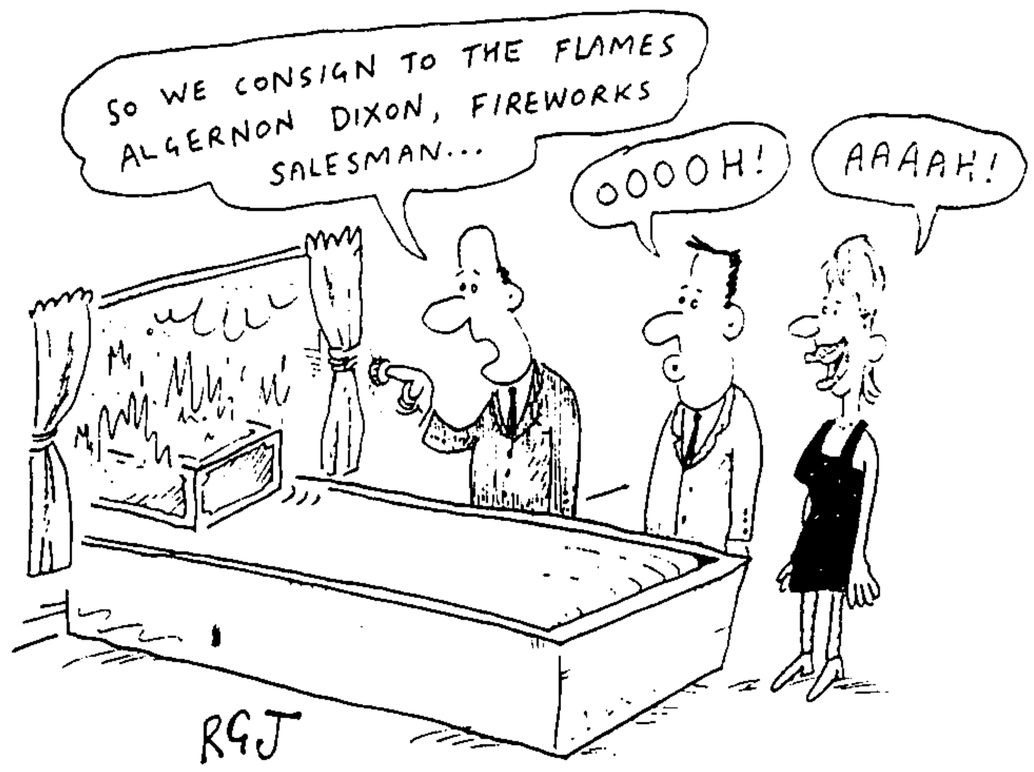
ITV DEFENDS SCHEDULE CHANGE

By Our Media Staff **Bud Wiser**

ITV bosses have rejected suggestions that the fact the network has been allowed to run extra ads per hour will affect the quality of its programmes.

"What people don't seem to realise is that this move means two minutes will be shaved off such shows as 'When Disasters Happen', 'Police Camera Stop', 'Blind Date', 'Heartbeat' and 'Peak Practice'," said an ITV executive.

"If that doesn't improve the quality of programmes I don't know what will."



DIARY

WILL SELF ON BEING A MAN

I myself – or, rather, the "I" that is me, or was me at that perfidious axiom in the Newtonian time/space continuum that occurred at just that moment, or instant, when I began, or started, this sentence, this collection of inter-related words or phrases – I myself grew up with absolutely no idea, or conception, of what it meant to be a man, or even to be masculine.

My father, it became clear, or evident, as I grew up, or got older, was a man – in very much the same way as my mother, as I was later to discover, was a woman – *womo sapiens*. A man: a woman. The former wore trousers, the latter dresses. Theirs was, spied through the catastrophicatory prism of the outside world, what would then have been called, or termed, a conventional marriage.

Mired in respectability, my father never talked about possessing a penis, and all that implied. Perchance he was in what Hegel, my capable if deceased lab-assistant in advanced studies in the exigencies of existence, would have termed a state of denial. Yet I now realise, or understand, that he in all likelihood employed his penis for all sorts of things – for scooping the last few snot-like albuminously laden dribbles from the nether of a lightly boiled egg, or as a convenient draught-excluder on preternaturally windy nocturnes, or as a handy putter on the golfing greens to which he was less a visitor than an attachment – to which he was too churlish, or embarrassed, to confess.

Like an estate-owning wildebeest, my father occupied, or inhabited, vast reserves of self-centredness. Standing by and watching him as he lay there putrefying on his deathbed I was flabbergasted that he didn't once ask after my own health, which, at that time, was commendably tip-top, and worthy of lengthy discussion. Instead, ever the solipsist, he self-pitying writhed and gasped, never even bothering to keep still while I noted down the peculiar colour – mauve, tinted with the pea-green of a laburnum soaked in urine – of his toes, for use in my acclaimed fifth novel, a set of inter-related narratives termino-execroballetically examining the whole nature of mortality through the eyes of a transsexual goldfish with a compulsive eating disorder and an obsession, or mania, for Descartes.

When finally my father had the grace to turn the volume of his writhings and gaspings to a notional zero on an imagined control-knobule, I generously submerged any feelings of blame or repugnance I might have been expected to foster, or incubate, in order to read to him, with lovingly-timed emphases, from my last book, a profoundly unnerving and searingly acute study of the whole death thing. It was when I was vocally hovering over the important fifth sentence in the nineteenth paragraph that a whitecoated nurse broke, or shattered, the sequentiality of my narrative by pushing past me to put her fingers and thumb to my father's wholly nondescript bourgeois wrist in order to feel his typically slack pulse.

"I am sorry to tell you this" she said, naturalistically, "But your father passed away some time ago."

I sat there dumbfounded, an air of cosmic bewilderment entering my skull and setting up home there, ready to emerge, years later, in a series of cutting-edge masterpieces. Dead – just when he should have been listening to me reading from a work-in-progress! This behaviour was all too typical, or characteristic. Not only had my father died without bothering to let me know – his cackhandedness in arrangements involving others was always astonishing – but he had passed on without even signalling his applause for the ingenuity, or complexity, of my new narrative. It was with near pity that I left the hospital, for his all-embracing solipsism had, in these last few moments of his life, deprived him of the chance to enjoy a one-to-one personal reading by his soon-to-be justly-celebrated son.

It's only this that motivates me to write about him at all: this vexed question of masculinity, of what it is to be a man. An unutterably grey nimbus of brutality surrounded my parents. They fought to the death, brandishing decency, the nuclear weapon of the suburban bourgeoisie. On the crap terrace of our suburban semi, my mother would coldheartedly ask my father how his day had been. Shielding the blow, he would reply, viciously, that it had been fine – and with a final savage swipe he would then tell her to put her legs up, before threatening her with a "nice" cup of tea. The two of them were a schizophrenic hermaphrodite, their marriage a screaming Procrustes, always stretched to breaking point – and beyond. I once overheard my mother say, "How about a nice biscuit then, dear?" It was a dubiously interrogatory phrase designed to force upon the prostrate victim an all-out assault, or attack, that could be met only with the tiny porous shit-brown shield of the absent Hobnob. When my father replied, "Mmm... lovely", I knew then that he had allowed his manhood to wither into a nothingness as weary, diminished and yet somehow sublimely totemic as a small mollusc stamped upon by an elephant before being subdivided with a pair of compasses by an aberrant algebraitician who is nursing a rare neurotic compulsive disorder that forces him to make things very small, or minuscule, indeed.

So at no point did my parents teach me how to be a man, or what a man was. As an artist, I find myself bedevilled, or bevilled, when it comes to the consideration of wherein my manhood really inheres. As a writer, I embody the caesura in which Western male society, or civilisation, now finds itself: civilisation, or society, is, to a very real extent, placed somewhere between its fifth novel and second book of short stories, widely-reviewed and, occasionally appearing with a wry half-smile on television, but somehow lacking in depth, or deepness.

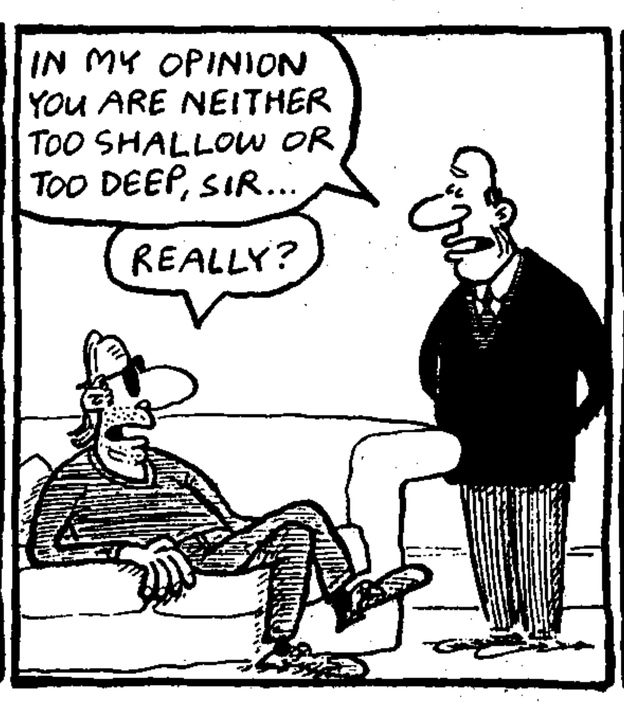
Is this all there is?

"What is a man, here in the 21st century?" I asked my friend, the novelist J.G. Ballard. "A man," he replied, "is the stain of pus on a discarded band-aid, the last nasal hair as it disappears down the plug-hole." Myself, I would take a less sentimental view. I sometimes feel myself to be plunging towards watery extinction, weighted down with the ballast of my own priapic masculinity, yet I cannot assay it, though I must continue to try, for I know not what it is, this I, this myself, this me me me me me me me me

As told to
CRAIG BROWN

Celeb

LIGGER



Literary Review

Stately homo?

Deep Romantic Chasm: Diaries 1979-1981
James Lees-Milne
(John Murray, £22.50)

ANTHONY POWELL's death earlier this year at the ripe age of 94 prompted more than one obituarist to declare that, with his passing, the world of the "Brideshead Generation" had finally sunk below the Plimsoll line. In fact they were wrong. The real symbolic demise had been that of James Lees-Milne (1908-1997) three years before.

Lees-Milne's iconic significance in any roll call of 20th century upper-society culture is impossible to overstate. Evelyn Waugh may have written the novel that put the English stately home back on the map, but it was Gentleman Jim, as the National Trust's travelling representative in the period 1936-1951, who took the practical steps to ensure its survival.

Deep Romantic Chasm is the eighth volume of the Lees-Milne journals unleashed on to a hugely deferential literary public ("an immortal" — Bevis Hillier; "second to none in their comicality, rueful self-knowledge and feline observation" — Jeremy Lewis). The fruit of a three-year period in the author's early 70s, when he was burrowing away at his two-volume life of Harold Nicolson and nurturing a platonic passion for the twenty-something Michael Bloch (who amusingly turns out to be the editor of the current tranche) its characteristic is that it is exactly like the preceding volumes only more so.

Thus against a backdrop of elegant country houses and their agreeable owners, little dinners at Brooks's and appendicised foreign jaunts, the familiar faces come and go. The Queen Mother. Cecil (Beaton). John (Betjeman). "Debo" Devonshire ("...absolutely divine. I know no chatelaine to compare with her") — a guest list with more handles to it than the most capacious sideboard.

Not, of course, that Jim takes any of this for granted. Oh dear me no: one of the most shocking revelations from this cross between Debrett and *Antiques Roadshow* is that even a lady of title can err. I mean, no less a social ornament than the Duchess of Buccleuch "clearly has ghastly taste; has put a small pool in the grass court outside the great hall, with raised cement curb".

Ah these eloquent lamentations! How stealthily they creep across the great lawns with their drooping elms and moulting peacocks! It's closing time in the gardens of the West, as if you didn't know, and civilisation is in sharp retreat ("It is the world disintegrating before one's eyes") and politics a kind of epochal disaster area ("Never have I despised or loathed a Government more than this one [James Callaghan's administration]." Happily Mags is just around the corner.)

To see him through, Jim has amassed the usual catalogue of tics and irritations, which are his fans' delight. There is the routine stinginess (an Australian research student looks as if he might leave a brandy and soda that cost a whole £1.20 until Jim makes him swallow it); the fastidious complaints about cafeteria food ("Weetabix, horrid soggy toast and a too-sweet marmalade in a tiny plastic pill-box, and a brown beverage masquerading as coffee") and above all — as closely attached to Lees-Milne as sage and onion stuffing is to chicken — galumphing snobbery.

His hosts at a luncheon given by the supposedly rather grand Coutts bank are a "painfully suburban lot". A story in which some vicarage burglars decline to pilfer the vicar's silver chalice and his wife's crucifix "just shows that *hoi polloi* ought to be brought up with a healthy dread of hell". Funnier still is Lees-Milne's eagerness, in the exhausting field of social relations, to have his cake and eat it — going to dinner at grand houses and then complaining at the precedence that always finds Caroline (Somerset) and Sally (Westminster) seated on either side of the host.

In the end, utterly sandbagged by this relentless twitter, I simply confined myself to jotting down the most hilarious sentences. Here are a few: "Ghastly dinner party at Berkeley Castle on Friday". "Went to London last night thinking it was the day Sheila Birkenhead had asked me to meet the Queen Mother." "Dear Sheila has dreadful teeth but I love the woman."

As for the book itself, with its procession of old, dead faces and even older, deader attitudes, curiously enough Lees-Milne offers his own summary, in a description of some house he happens to be staying at: "But oh the mournfulness of this funny old Victorian house, with its musty smell of black treacly panelling, and stuffy bewhiskered ancestors." God help us all, but there are probably another two or three volumes to come.

Books & Bookmen

■ AN intriguing development has emerged concerning last issue's story about Metro's relationship with Jasper Griegson, author of *The Complete Complainer*.

"Griegson", it transpires, is a nom de plume used by one Clive Zietman, senior partner at the law firm Llewelyn Zietman. By a remarkable coincidence, Llewelyn Zietman are Metro's lawyers, so it seems the consumer champion may now find himself having to defend the sort of company he rails against pseudonymously when the publisher's disgruntled ex-employees sue for non-payment of salaries.

Ex-chairman Ian Savage and former sales manager Les Phipps are pursuing claims, along with Phipps' successor Suzanne Collier. The remaining staff haven't been paid since August.

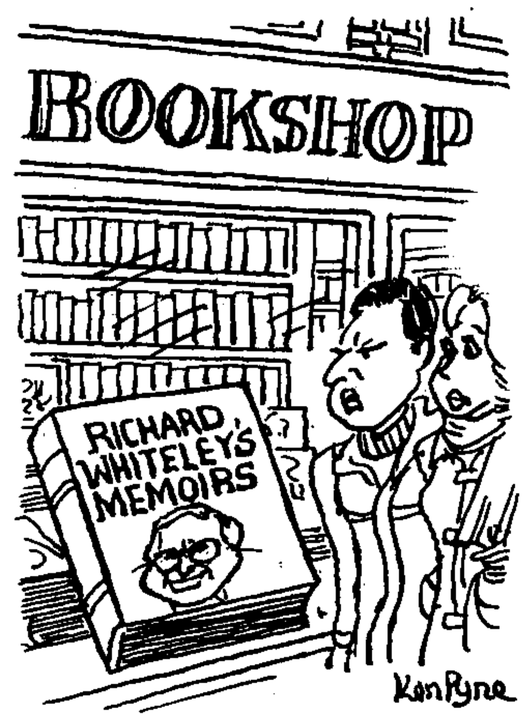
The company is now in a critical state. The cash generated by the two rights issues of February and December 1999 has been exhausted — although the shares from the first issue seem never to have been actually issued. One former insider predicts that the company "will not last until Christmas". In fact the day of reckoning may be much sooner: the Inland Revenue wants a six-figure sum in tax and has given Metro 21 days to pay.

And where is Metro MD Susanne McDadd all the while? A call to the Metro offices elicits the information that she is "on holiday" — in the South of France with her finance director Charles Lumsden, who was the finance director of Roger Levitt's group of companies at the time of their collapse, as well as being architect of Metro's botched rights issues.

■ THE expected implosion of Naim Attallah-Disgusting's Namara empire — which includes ailing publisher Quartet — is not only imminent but the great man's own retirement from the literary scene is on the cards too.

Still, the man himself jetted back from France on his way to the Frankfurt book fair to attend the Foyles 70th anniversary lunch, exuding the air of a prosperous bookman and giving no inkling of the crisis. Meanwhile Quartet authors wait forlornly to be paid.

The man himself — author of some dozen books including two novels — intends to devote more time to... well, it's not clear what. The official reason is that the renowned self-publicist is about to reach the grand old age of three score years and ten, but his decision coincides with the abdication of his longstanding and diligent ghost-writer Jennie Erdal, from whose pen all Attallah's scribblings have issued.



"Another awful jacket"

A former academic at the University of St Andrews, she has devoted herself to Attallah-Disgusting's career in books, and not without success, fooling such establishment figures as Alice Thomas Ellis ("Naim Attallah shows a sensitivity unusual in a man") and A.N. Wilson ("Naim Attallah is the best interviewer alive").

But as anyone who has ever been interviewed by Atallah will confirm, he can scarcely read the questions provided by his intellectual ghost, never mind think them up. The literary world will be the poorer without Dr Erdal.

■ AT the launch of *The Unconventional Minister*, Geoffrey Robinson expressed surprise that people were concentrating only on the sections about his loan to Peter Mandelson.

"Out of 243 pages, I'm amazed that there has been such a great deal of attention paid to one chapter of the book — a mere 15 pages," he claimed, adding that "the other chapters of the book are much more interesting".

Er, perhaps he has forgotten what his "friends" were telling the press last year when the book was touted to publishers. In August 1999 the *Daily Telegraph* reported that "Robinson's friends" indicated that he could well use the book to get his revenge, and "that he was sitting on hitherto-undisclosed information which he might include in the book if he came under further attack".

'Bookworm'

IN THE BACK

INDIAN SUMMONS

JUSTIN FLETCHER of Devonshires, the distinguished City firm of solicitors, had a busy week *earlier* this month after pretty well all the newspapers, and the last *Eye*, reported that his clients — the fabulously wealthy Hinduja brothers, benefactors of the Greenwich dome and close associates of several prime ministers — had been "charged" in India.

Their alleged offences were reported to be connected with kickbacks from the multi-billion dollar arms contract between the Swedish arms company Bofors and the Indian government in 1986.

Oh dear. A terrible mistake had been made. And so Mr Fletcher fired off a volley of letters to all the offending newspapers, including the *Eye*, pointing out that the Hindujas had not been charged at all.

"All that has happened," he wrote, "is that the CBI (Indian police) has filed a report of allegations and proposed charges with the court." Before anyone was actually charged, the matter would be considered in court on 20 November. The Indian paper *Hindu* had got the story right. The brothers, it reported, had not been charged at all — they had been "charge-sheeted": that is, a charge sheet had been filed against them.

This monstrous error so shocked some newspaper editors they rushed to make amends. The *Daily Express* led the field. On 18 October it published an item under the heading *The Hinduja Brothers*. "We would like to clarify that the CBI filed a report of allegations and proposed charges with the court," it grovelled. "It was not accompanied by evidence. The judge has directed that such evidence be filed with the court. On 20th November the court will assess whether proposed charges are sustainable or not... we apologise for any inconvenience caused."

Almost as apologetically the *Financial Times* on 21 October corrected the shameful error and concluded: "We regret any inconvenience caused." The London *Evening Standard* also corrected the error, but without an apology. The *Times*, which had made the same mistake, ridiculed the *Express* for its apology, pointing out that the Hindujas were "favourites to take over the *Express*".

On 18 October, the day the last *Eye* hit the streets, Mr Fletcher penned an angry letter to the *Eye* describing our account of the Hindujas' Bofors connection as "grossly defamatory of our clients". He went on: "They vehemently deny the allegation that they have been involved in any form of corruption."

Mr Fletcher was specially annoyed at the *Eye*'s references to the possibility that the brothers might be extradited. This matter, he insisted, was "completely irrelevant". He also wished to make it clear his clients had done "everything in their power" to assist the Indian police.

The next day another anguished letter from Mr Fletcher arrived at the *Eye* offices. "We refer to our letter of 18th October 2000 to which we are somewhat disappointed not to have had a response. We should be grateful to hear from you in early course with your proposals for a corrective article and apology."

The *Eye* lawyers replied a day later: "Our clients were somewhat surprised to receive a further letter from you expressing your disappointment at not receiving a response to your letter of the day before. Your original letter does not in fact ask for any response and simply asks that a corrective article and apology be published. As you are no doubt aware *Private Eye* is published fortnightly and the next issue will not be published until the week beginning October 30th. Your chasing letter is therefore quite pointless."

The *Eye* accepts at once that the Hinduja brothers have not been charged but have been charge-sheeted. We are happy to make this clear. To avoid any further misunderstanding we quote some relevant extracts from the charge sheet.

Paragraph two states: "Information received had revealed that between 1982 and 1987 certain public servants entered into/were party to a criminal conspiracy with W. M. Chadha, Martin Ardbo, G.P. Hinduja and others at New Delhi/other places in India and abroad and in pursuance thereof committed offences of criminal conspiracy, bribery, criminal misconduct by a public servant, cheating, criminal breach of trust, forgery for the purpose of cheating and using as genuine a forged document."

Srichand Hinduja

Gobichand Hinduja

Paragraph four states: "Investigation has revealed that Srichand P Hinduja, Gobichand P Hinduja and Prakash P Hinduja are brothers and businessmen... It is revealed that Srichand P Hinduja, Gobichand P Hinduja and Prakash P Hinduja were also party to the criminal conspiracy with Martin Ardbo and others during the period 1985 to 1987 and thereafter and, in pursuance thereof, they also received commissions from M/S. AB Bofors."

Paragraph 18 states: "The above facts disclose commission of offences under section 120-8 IPC read with 420 IPC & 5(2) read with 5(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1947 by Srichand P Hinduja, Gobichand P Hinduja and Prakash P. Hinduja in conspiracy with Martin Ardbo former president of M/S AB Bofors of Sweden and others".

The statement is signed by Keshev Mishra, deputy superintendent of police.

Only time will tell how completely irrelevant is the possibility of extradition in connection with these and other similar extracts from the charge-sheet. As for the degree of cooperation between the Hindujas and the Indian police investigation, *Eye* readers are referred to issue 963 (13 Nov 1998), which records the Hindujas' persistent appeals to the Swiss courts to prevent disclosure of bank accounts.

TO SLUR WITH LOVE?

MARTIN McGartland, the former Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) double agent shot last year by the IRA, may at last have found something for which to thank Northumbria police.

With last week's settlement of his libel action against the *Mail* and the *Standard*, the last in a series of newspaper apologies and damages, in all McGartland is believed to have netted more than £200,000 from papers that carried reports suggesting the shooting might have been the result of an underworld drug feud.

The *Standard* at first resisted paying out, saying it was merely reporting what Knacker of Northumbria had told it — that the police initially believed the shooting was connected to drugs and not the IRA.

Northumbria has always maintained it was not behind the slur, but McGartland is unconvinced. *Eye* readers will recall he has grounds for bitter complaint against the force. There was the near-fatal 20-minute delay in getting police and an ambulance to him as he lay bleeding from six gun shot wounds, fired outside his Tyneside home where he had been living under a false identity.

And it was courtesy of Knacker and the crown prosecution service that his cover was blown in the first place. They had decided to prosecute him for perverting the course of justice by using different driving licences. However, after hearing of McGartland's dangerous double life for the security services, a Newcastle crown court jury took no time to acquit him. By then, however, the IRA knew who and where he was and launched its hit squad.

No one now has any doubt it was two IRA men who shot McGartland, but the reports immediately after the shooting, even though they detailed his undercover work in Northern Ireland, also reported the false links to the local criminal world.

McGartland, who was recovering in hospital at the time, was devastated. But as he negotiates with the police for a new identity, the accumulating damages may at least help him live until he can resume a more normal existence.

It's the same old Tory

HOME SECRETARY Jack Straw is finding himself on the wrong side of the immigration law almost as often as his Tory role model Michael Howard. But in the case of Ghanaian asylum-seeker John Quaquah, Straw is set for the record books.

He is about to face a third costly judicial review of his decision to remove Mr Quaquah — despite being told at two previous hearings that he was wrong in law and despite being made to pay all costs.

Mr Quaquah, 35, is one of the "Campsfield Nine" wrongly scapegoated for disturbances in 1997 at the controversial Campsfield House detention centre run by Group 4 near Oxford. Some, including Mr Quaquah, are suing the home secretary for malicious prosecution after their trial on riot charges collapsed amid claims that Group 4 officers had fabricated evidence. Surveillance video evidence contradicted accounts given by some of the guards.

However, Mr Quaquah was served with a deportation notice before his civil case came to court, leading to claims that the home office action was merely an attempt to thwart the damages action.

In December last year Mr Justice Turner quashed Straw's refusal to give Mr Quaquah exceptional leave to enter the country, pending the hearing, saying that the home secretary could be accused of bias for "albeit unintentionally" putting difficulties in the way of Mr Quaquah preparing his case.

There was, he said, in matters alleging improper behaviour by those carrying out public duties, a need to show "an equality of arms" between the home secretary and Mr Quaquah (who is now 5,000 miles away).

The judge ordered Mr Straw to reconsider the case and warned that any fresh decision to remove Mr Quaquah would have to show that there could be no appearance of bias. The home secretary did nothing until fresh judicial review proceedings were launched — and then again without giving reasons refused John Quaquah leave to enter Britain. Last month the decision was quashed a second time by Mr Justice Elias, who came close to awarding punitive costs against Straw.

He said that after the Turner ruling there had been an expectation that Mr Quaquah would be given leave to enter, unless the home secretary could show significant reasons. He made it clear a fresh decision should be made urgently.

That was nine weeks ago. Despite letters from Mr Quaquah's lawyers requesting a response, there has been nothing. So they are forced to launch a third costly judicial review.

According to Mark Scott, Mr Quaquah's lawyer: "Mr Quaquah can be forgiven for perceiving that the failure to reach a decision on his case which is causing him hardship and extreme prejudice is not a product of inefficiency on the part of the home office but smacks of bias and is downright malicious."

NAREY'S MIXED GRILL

AS THE *Eye* predicted, the Commons home affairs select committee gave prison service managers a thorough grilling over the unprecedented night raid on Blantyre House resettlement jail in Kent and the removal under a cloud of suspicion of the governor and deputy governor (see *Eyes passim*).

The MPs were relentlessly critical over the prison service's attempted justification for the £26,000 raid — its planning, execution, reported findings and subsequent clampdown on a praised "model prison" with a unique rehabilitation record.

The MPs suggested it was a heavy-handed "fishing exercise" triggered by someone who did not believe in resettlement prisons. They also suggested they had been lied to or misled over various aspects of the raid, and that it was — to use the words of Sir David Ramsbotham, chief inspector of prisons — "all a terrible and ghastly mistake".

The committee members were particularly sceptical of claims that the removal shortly before the 5 May raid of governor Eoin McLellan-Murray was part of his "promotion". Martin Narey, head of the service, told the committee he had long been planning to move the governor — "a man I hold in very high regard" — because he had been at the jail for four years and needed experience in more secure prisons.

In one exchange over the matter, Tory MP Gerald Howarth told Narey: "I have to tell you that you are totally and wholly unconvincing... as to why that had to be done that day [*the day of the raid*] with the man given two hours' notice to leave the prison. It simply does not make sense."

MPs were not happy that doors were smashed down when it seems keys were available; and they were concerned about the regime that has been put in place since the raid. As Labour MP Ian Cawsey told Narey: "Up until yesterday we could not find anybody who could have a single good thing to say about the post-May 5 regime."

The prison service was probed too over the almost total lack of "contraband" found in the raid, despite its claims that Blantyre was "awash with drugs". Far from it: all prisoners passed a drugs test.

To all the criticisms, however, prison service managers claimed they had an answer to explain the raid — criminal intelligence, the details of which could only be given in secret. Narey hinted what was to come when he conceded that "different agencies" had some interest in one or two of the inmates.

The big question is: did this justify the unprecedented raid and the manner in which it was carried out? Why was the governor not warned of it, and why were inmates under suspicion not moved to a more secure jail? Smart money suggests the committee will accept that there were serious allegations that demanded action — but not the actions employed by prison service managers, who are braced for a damning report.

MERGER MOST FOUL

THE vast influence of the *Eye* in financial matters is well-established, but the most recent example is remarkable.

In the summer the trustees of the British Airways Pension Fund met and all declared themselves very much in favour of BA's plan to merge their two pension funds: one for older employees (APS) and the other for younger ones (NAPS). But they are not all in favour any more.

On 6 October the *Eye* published a detailed account of the growing opposition to the merger among pensioners in APS, and hailed the election as a new trustee of Mike Post, a retired pilot opposed to the merger. The *Eye* also published a long-standing commitment by Lord Marshall, BA chairman, not to allow the old pension scheme to subsidise a new one.

This pledge, campaigners suggested, would be broken by BA's plan to merge the two schemes — in essence an attempt by the board to get access to hundreds of millions of pounds of APS money. This would allow British Airways to subsidise the new scheme while continuing a 40-year "pensions holiday" on the old one.

Then on 20 October the trustees met, reinforced by Mike Post. Unanimously they decided to do a smart about-turn. Previously they had all been in favour of the merger. Now they were all against it. "The trustees," said a statement, "will now be notifying BA that they do not consider it appropriate to proceed with the merger."

The about-turn followed advice from the same actuaries, Watson Wyatt, who originally supported the merger with such passion but who had now changed their tune after carrying out re-evaluations of both schemes. By one of those odd coincidenceS so common in the world of pensions, Watson Wyatt are also actuaries to British Airways.

British Airways is unmoved. In a testy statement the company insists that "the rationale for the merger is valid". For the time being, it says, the directors will consider "a new proposal to put to the trustees in due course".

NIKE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT

IN the recent Panorama on the "ethical trading standards" of Nike and Gap, reporter Paul Kenyon uncovered child labour, low pay and frightful conditions, including 12-year-old girls working seven-day weeks and 16-hour days for the grand sum of $8 a month in factories making goods for Nike and Gap.

Both firms promised they had carried out their own "ethical" audit of the factories. So who runs Nike's "ethical" audits? Step forward PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC), the accountants recently given the job of helping select new members for the House of Lords in Britain.

This is not the first complaint about the flimsiness of PWC's "ethical" auditing. Professor Dara O'Rourke of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology went with PWC to inspect factories in China and Korea (at the request of Harvard university, which was under pressure to check the provenance of its college garments).

In September the professor reported that inspectors from PWC had a pro-management bias, did not uncover the use of carcinogenic chemicals and failed to recognise that some employees were forced to work 80-hours a week. He also said PWC overlooked other basic problems, including timecards that were falsified and machines that were missing safety guards to protect workers' fingers. PWC's auditors could not distinguish a company-run union from an independent one.

The firm's failures may of course go way back. PWC's more spectacular failures include passing audits for BCCI and Maxwell Communications for which it paid fines of $250m and £67m respectively. More recently it approved the accounts of Geoffrey Robinson's TransTec without spotting a missing £11.2m. It is perhaps no surprise then to find PWC lobbying for more secrecy, its name appearing last July when home secretary Jack Straw revealed which firms were pushing him for less "freedom of information" in his bill.

PWC staff sit on innumerable government boards and advise on a host of private finance initiative schemes, helping the government privatise schools, hospitals (including UCLH), libraries and anything else that can be sold. Indeed, the treasury even appointed the firm to run a training programme to propagandise the PFI approach.

Virdi: Pannick stations

SENIOR Metropolitan police officers appear to be perfecting a novel interpretation of their responsibilities to law and order in the continuing saga of Sgt Gurpal Virdi (*Eyes passim*): that a police disciplinary inquiry has the same force as an industrial tribunal.

This interpretation has earned the police a stinging rebuke from the normally mild and moderate chairwoman of the north London employment tribunal, Mrs J. Hill. At a hearing on 18 October she said she was surprised the Virdi case had not been settled. She was plainly irritated by the attitude of the police and their lawyer, Mr Peter Wallington. He aired the police view that two separate judicial processes had come to different conclusions in the Virdi case.

Last March the case was heard by one of the most high-ranking disciplinary tribunals ever assembled by the Metropolitan police. Three commanders sat in judgement. They were Richard Cullen, then head of the police training school; Graham James, now at the directorate of professional standards; and Alan Shave from south west London.

The commanders listened to four weeks of evidence and came to the remarkable conclusion that Mr Virdi, despite 17 years' impeccable service, had, in a fit of irritation at being passed over for promotion, sent racist hate mail to himself and other officers at Ealing police station. This conclusion was swiftly adopted by the press as final and indisputable.

The *Sun* on 4 March declared in a headline: SIKH SARGE TRIED TO STIR UP RACIST HATRED SO HE COULD CLAIM PROMOTION SNUB WAS DOWN TO DISCRIMINATION. Despite its total lack of legal clout, the commanders' decision was also widely reported on television.

The star of the show was deputy assistant commissioner Michael Todd, who appeared on *Newsnight* to say: "Three commanders independently assessed the evidence of over 80 witnesses and 50 gave evidence... There was independent evidence from officers who saw Sgt Virdi at that [computer] machine at the time... The case was decided beyond all reasonable doubt..." When Jeremy Paxman asked him: "You stand by everything?" he replied: "Yes, I do."

When Mr Virdi continued with his case at the employment tribunal, he was drowned by a wave of media criticism. DAC Todd gave a radio interview in which he severely criticised Virdi for wasting time and money by bringing the case.

As reported in *Eyes* 1010 and 1011 the tribunal case was heard over many days with the result that Mr Virdi was handsomely vindicated. The tribunal concluded that he had not sent out the racist mail. Indeed the material had probably not even been in the batch investigated by the police commanders. The sergeant had therefore been cruelly treated, discriminated against, harassed, falsely arrested, victimised and smeared. Substantial remedies were obviously in order.

The police response to these devastating findings was to claim that the score was now one-all, and that therefore the best course for them was to "draw a line" under the case. This approach infuriated Mrs Hill. There was, she pointed out, no comparison between the two tribunals. One was based on the familiar story of the police sitting in judgment over themselves, with no witnesses on oath, and procedures in breach of the human rights act. "We are the only independent body to find on this matter," she insisted and set down a further hearing for 30 November to decide the remedies due to Mr Virdi.

She asked angrily why the case had not already been settled, and ordered another hearing next year to decide whether the police can strike out a proposal by Mr Virdi's lawyers that there should be a judicial review. For this action, the police have briefed David Pannick QC, one of the country's most expensive lawyers. Win or lose, Mr Pannick's fees will be paid by the taxpayer.

You can contact Paul Foot on 020 7287 3183 or the In the Back team on 020 7437 4017

In the City

THE Department of Timidity & Inaction is seeking to belie its reputation by cranking up the volume on its investigation into the *Mirror* and its discredited City Slickers. The result is that there are whispers of newly uncovered share dealers and share deals.

The DTI investigation at broker Redmayne Bentley, which dealt for Slickers Anil Bhoyrul and James Hipwell, is said to have uncovered questionable transactions by another financial journalist, believed to be connected to a share-tipping newsletter, and a financial PR flak.

Over at the *Mirror* editor Piers Morgan is looking increasingly vulnerable to the prospect of joining his fun-loving former employees in the DTI dock. Not that Bhoyrul and Hipwell will be too unhappy at that prospect. Misery needs company and to the extent that they can spread the blame they may figure there is a chance to escape retribution. The threat could be hang together or hang separately. Editor and Slickers plus any executives or hacks in between could all claim ignorance of the law even if that is no excuse.

The DTI invitation to a dozen or so *Mirror* hacks and secretaries to come in this week for a chat is indicative of an approach designed to explore the strength of the "everyone was at it" defence. By establishing a culture of improper share-dealing approved of from the top – ie "Moron" – the Slickers could cry unfair if they alone were charged with offences such as market manipulation. The DTI clearly wants to see how far that culture went, who traded shares and why and perhaps who did not.

There are many stories of greedy hacks asking or being told by the duo or "Moron" on his triumphal walk back from the Slickers' office (or simply hacking into the system to find out) what the next *Mirror* tip was to be and then following the advice to readers to "fill yer boots". The fact that they did so regularly ahead of their readers is now the indictment facing not just "Moron" but others.

Evidence of "Moron" talking about his share deals would make useful testimony. So too would evidence of other *Mirror* staff being informed about future tips. Given that the Slickers are self-confessed liars their word cannot be relied upon – especially against a potential co-defendant.

Perhaps some of those closest to "Moron" will be recruited under promise of immunity to point the finger. Not every share dealer need be prosecuted in order to make examples of Bhoyrul and Hipwell. And it could prove a fatal weakness to the DTI if they were able to point to Morgan – the man who not only did not stop their blatant behaviour but joined in – as not being with them in the dock.

Where that leaves his Trinity Mirror defenders, such as City sophisticate Sir Victor Blank, other than embarrassed by their ignorance of what was going on below them is hard to see. Blank knows what privileged information is. He also knows about the proprieties of using it to deal. Why then does it seem that "Moron" and his troops were so ignorant of not just the code of conduct but the simple immorality of buying shares ahead of a tip in your own newspaper?

The usual DTI tactic in any investigation once all the facts are in – which regarding the share deals is said to be so – is to look for potential witnesses. Only at the end of that process are the actual targets of the investigation approached as they can and usually do say nothing that can be used against them in court. That "Moron" and the Slickers and certain other *Mirror* insiders plus "Moron" broker Antony Laiker have yet to be interviewed – which appears to be the case – suggests who the targets are. Which is why "Moron" is said to appear increasingly rattled. It would be hard for would-be City grandees like Blank to hold on to a man who had been charged with a City crime!

This is especially so if it were to emerge that "Moron" had engaged in any other suspect share deals to match those with Viglen Technology and Corporate Executive Search.

That perhaps explains the flurry of rumours surrounding the colourful tale of how "Moron" came to change an unflattering description by the Slickers in July last year of Sir Christopher Hogg (chairman of Reuters and Allied Domecq) who just happens to be not just the husband of *Mirror* "agony aunt" Miriam Stoppard but also a social acquaintance. Had this friendship and regard for Hogg – reclassified as a "genius" in the "Moron"-altered Slickers column – resulted in the *Mirror* editor previously buying shares in Reuters before their sharp slide last year or, more profitably, in Allied Domecq before they sold their pubs and the shares soared?

There are those *Mirror* insiders who believe the answer is "yes" to both questions. But to suggest this was due to any information improperly imparted by Sir Christopher Hogg or his wife is clearly unjustified and malicious as both have made clear. This is not an Archer situation. What is less clear is whether "Moron" has ever bought shares in Reuters or Allied Domecq. No doubt this is a question Blank has already put to his worried editor?

CITY regulators and those in Malta are likely to be interested in a legal spat surrounding William Mealing, chairman of two emerging markets funds managed by French bankers Societé Generale.

Mealing has been sued by his former partner, David Jones, late of Warburgs, in a dispute over some £25,000 in which allegations of "fraudulent mis-representation" and "breach of trust" have been made.

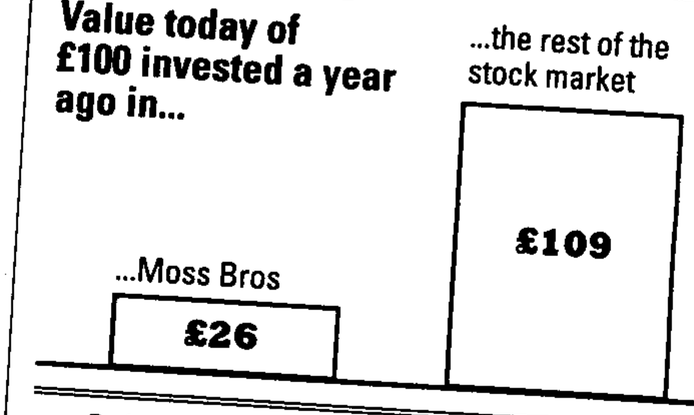
Mealing is chairman of the Baltic Republics and Eastern European Opportunities funds. He disputes the claim. The dispute arises from Jones' claim that he was eased out of a half-share in Ariane Advisors which manages the $10m Malta-based Ariane Infrastructure Fund. Accountants KPMG have already resigned as administrators of the British Virgin Island-registered management company (but not as auditors of the fund) over the dispute.

NO SOONER had it been raised here that Tomkins auditor Arthur Andersen was hardly the best placed "independent" investigator of former dictator Greg Hutchings' serial corporate abuse than the firm was gone. New chairman David Newlands suddenly awoke to the conflict of interest posed by the millions in fees paid under Hutchings to Andersen and called in Ernst & Young.

But that does not resolve the conflicts. It only reduces them by one. There is still the fact that E&Y will be presenting its findings into how Hutchings came to have Tomkins pick up almost every available tab to a board that either allowed him to do so or was asleep at the wheel.

Stock Horror

Taken to the cleaners at Moss Bros



Only Sir Brian Pitman, who joined as a non-executive in June when Hutchings was prised loose from the chairmanship, is untainted. Newlands is not as guilty on the "rogue or fool" test as the other non-execs, Hutchings' pals Ali Wambold and Roger Holland, but with American Marshall Wallach is far from innocent.

Even less so are long-serving Hutchings' hand-picked executives Anthony Reading, David Snowdon and Richard Marchant. Less culpable but still questionable is finance director Ken Lever who arrived a year ago.

Will E&Y's report into the payments and perks from Tomkins to Hutchings and his partner in abuse, former finance chief Ian Duncan (who it is suggested authorised each other's excesses), simply blame the dear departed or zero in on those who did nothing but who will read and pay for the report? How can Tomkins shareholders – who may not see the report – rely on such a compromised board to punish *all* those responsible, including fellow directors? Did those on the remuneration and audit committees such as Wambold, Holland and later Newlands *never* query any payment so long as Hutchings or Duncan had signed off on it?

But any of those accused can say to their arriviste accusers with some justification – what did you know and what did you do? Tomkins represents a *total* corporate governance failure and almost all directors should pay the price.

Shareholders are unlikely to feel they can rely on joint brokers Cazenove doing their bit to achieve this when the City bluebloods so readily jumped ship from advising former stockbroker Robert Tennant-Ralphs on his proposed coup against Hutchings. Cazenove, it now appears, were briefed in outline if not in detail about the corporate abuses – jets and apartments plus the employment of Hutchings' wife and housekeeper – but instead took the Tomkins shilling – well, perhaps over £2m in fees and commissions – and stayed silent.

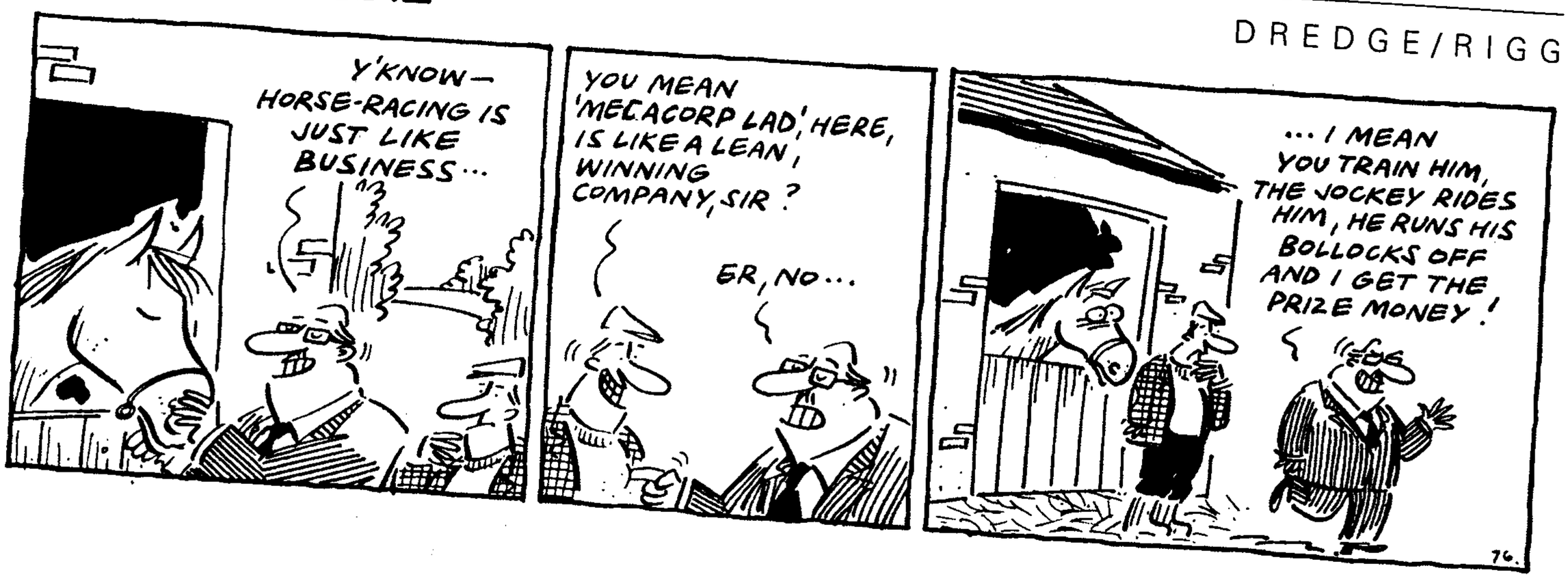
No doubt this was all very difficult for Caz partner Julian Cazalet who is said to be an old school chum of Hutchings.

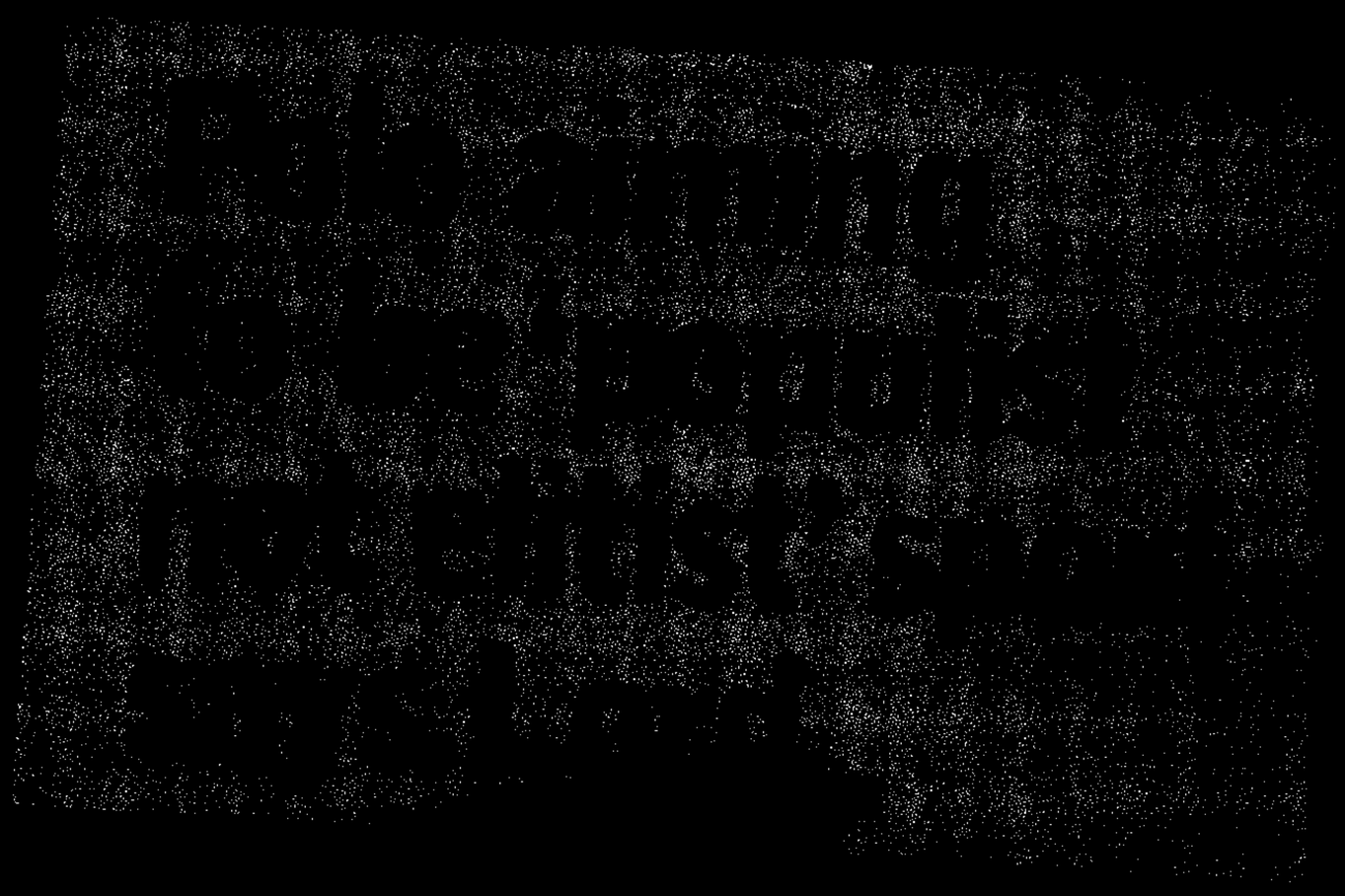
Thankfully perhaps American fund manager David Herro is riding to the rescue of the spineless British institutional shareholders. He is due to meet Newlands this week. Hopefully he will insist on widespread boardroom changes and publication of the E&Y report in full.

'Slicker'

THE DIRECTORS

DREDGE/RIGG





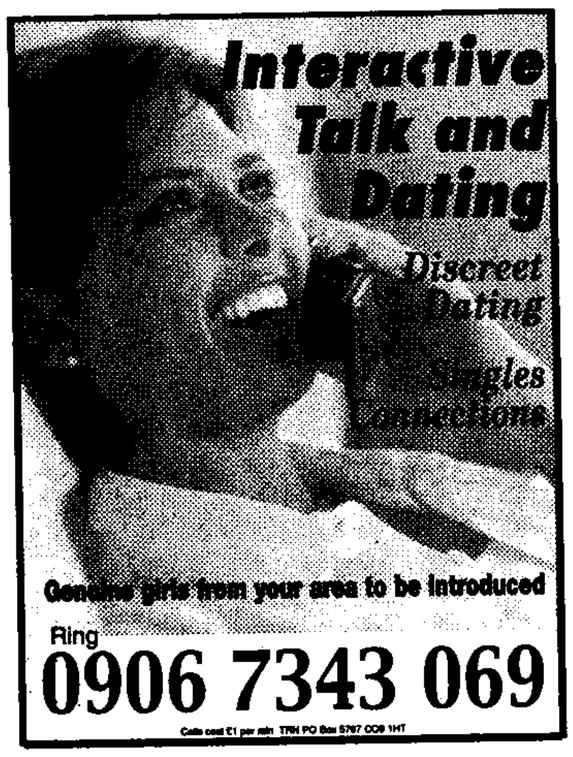
VISIONARY & DEFINITIVE
SPORTS ANALYSIS ONLINE
STAR.co.uk

specialEYEs

services

Calls are free.You only pay for on-line facilities. All major credit cards accepted.Callers must be 18 or over.

Calls cost 60p/min. PhoneTime, POBox 4DZ, London, N1



free tickets

THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER

Free tickets for recordings of the BBC-1 comedy sports quiz are available to Eye readers.

Recordings take place on Monday nights from 7pm, starting November 13th.

Just ring BBC Ticket Unit on 020 8576 1227, and mention this ad.

speechwriting

Don't be embarrassed by a difficult audience...

Brian Jenner's Corporate Speechwriting Services

Call 020 7262 5884
or visit
www.speakup.co.uk

See website for speaking tips from Sir Robin Day, William Hague, Ned Sherrin and others.

SPEECHWRITING SERVICES
CORPORATE • SOCIAL • POLITICAL
Fully Customised and confidential
MAKE EM LAUGH OR NO FEE!
Emergency Speeches Undertaken
Britain's leading Professional
MITCH MURRAY
01624 622660
Access - Visa - Mastercard

hogarth appeal

Celebrate Hogarth's 303rd Birthday with Sir Donald Sinden & Peter Blake

Music, art auction talk, refreshments Chiswick Town Hall 10 Nov 7-10pm proceeds to Hogarth statue for Chiswick

Tickets £25: 8 Heathfield Gardens, London W4 4JY Cheques to CTA Hogarth s Birthday Account

meeting people

★ STOCKBROKERS • DOCTORS • ADVERTISING • ACCOUNTANTS • ARCHITECTS ★

MARKETING • DESIGNERS

drawing down *the* moon

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION CONSULTANTS - THE FIRST AND FINEST

"a partner for life...that's where Drawing Down the Moon comes in"
FINANCIAL TIMES

020-7937 6263
www.drawingdownthemoon.co.uk
Head Office: Adam & Eve Mews, Kensington. *City Office:* Cannon Street
24 hours. Member ABIA. Est. 1984

EDUCATIONALISTS • WRITERS

★ MEDIA COMPANY DIRECTORS • LAWYERS • PR • BANKERS • SCIENTISTS ★

clubs

The
Blue Angel Club

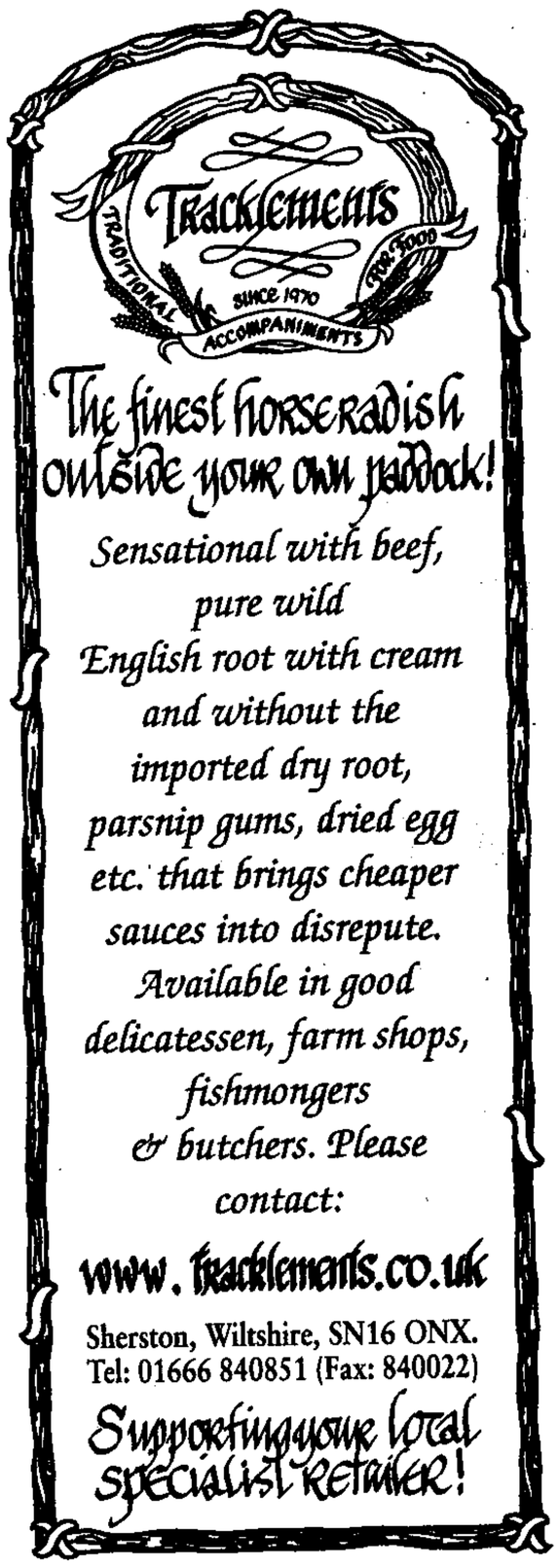
welcomes you and your friends for a really unforgettable evening. Drink, or dine and dance in luxurious surroundings and be served or entertained by our Angels.

Open Monday to Friday from 6.30pm until late

Membership not required.

17 Little Portland Street, London W1N 5DE Tel: 020 7636 2178

specialist foods



gifts

SAUCY STOCKING FILLERS

Three tasty volumes. 160 recipes of Sauces, Marinades and Dips & Dressings ~ all beautifully produced. Turn mundane meals into culinary triumphs.
Great Christmas gift. Only **£9.99** inc p&p.

Cheques to
Skinny Things
PO Box 548
Richmond TW9 2GG
Please allow 28 days for delivery

THE PERFECT GIFT FOR EVERY CHILD!

A PERSONALISED PICTURE BOOK
from
www.storyclick.com

Your child is the main character whose actions lead to a happy ending! Our wide range includes classic Fairy Tales, Space Adventure, Dinosaurs and books especially for Birthdays or Christmas!

These top quality books can be ordered from our online Bookshop for only **£6.95** including postage!

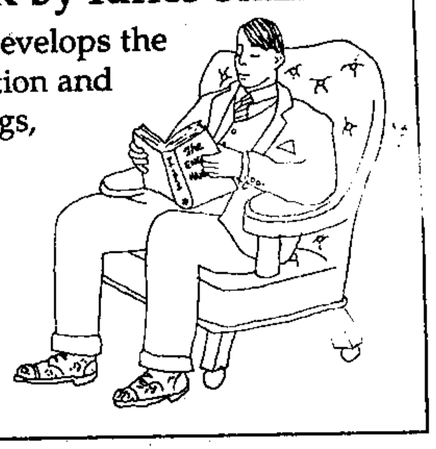
THE ENGLISHMAN'S HANDBOOK by Idries Shah

Starting out from a study of 'foreigners' Shah develops the *Englishman's Handbook* as a treasury of information and an elucidator of misinformation. Secret meanings, hidden hands, amazing inventiveness – these are the mysterious fascinations of the British.

'Erudite, entertaining and hilarious . . .'

Hardback ISBN 0 863040 77 2 £15.95

Octagon Press, P.O. Box 227, London N6 4EW
Tel: (020) 8348 9392 www.octagonpress.com



BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS

Births, Birthdays, Weddings, Christenings, Anniversaries, Retirements... Papers from archives 1642-2000.
Sundays from 1915.
Quality presentations.
Same day dispatch.

REMEMBER WHEN
445 Brighton Road,
Croydon, Surrey CR2 6EU

020 8763 6363
or call FREE 0500 520 000

New: AUDIO E-MAIL

Delight your kids with a personalised audio message from Father Christmas, or Wacky Wally. AUDIO E-MAIL makes a great present.
We'll record a unique greeting and send by e-mail, which will play through your computer.
Call **0161 926 8003** *for more details or listen to examples at* **www.sound-productions.co.uk** *& click "Audio E-Mails".*
Adult versions available, which make great wind-ups for brides, grooms, colleagues & partners.

menu Cartoon Gallery

biogs
books
gallery
exhibitions

A selection of cartoons, illustrations and animated cels can be found on the **Cartoon Gallery Website**, from **Chris Riddell** to **Steve Bell, Alex** to **Appleby, Honeysett** to **Husband** and **McLachlan** to **Matt.**
The site also has extensive biographies, including **Ronald Searle** and **Kipper Williams** and the **Search by Subject** pages contain **12** categories from **Art** to **Therapy,** showing over **120** original cartoons.
All cartoons and books are dispatched within three working days via our mail order department, so..... for the speculative and gift buyer alike, please visit:
www.cartoongallery.co.uk

The Cartoon Gallery 39 Great Russell St. London WC1B 3PH
tel: 020-7636-1011 fax: 020-7436-5053 e mail: cartoongallery@easynet.co.uk

surveillance

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D NEED BUGGING EQUIPMENT. *BUT THEN I SAID THE SAME ABOUT MOBILE PHONES*

SUSPECT SOMETHING'S GOING ON? FIND OUT–WITHOUT BEING FOUND OUT!
As world leaders in covert intelligence products we've concealed cameras and tiny microphones in the most surprising ordinary everyday objects.
So if you want to find out and not be found out, give us a call.
And we'll keep it between ourselves.

LORRAINE ELECTRONICS SURVEILLANCE
Head Office: **716 Lea Bridge Road, London E10 6AW.** *Fax:* 020 8558 1338
Central London Showrooms: 59 South Audley Street, W1K 2QN
27 Conduit Street, W1S 2XZ
020 8558 4226 *Web:* http://www.lorraine.co.uk

PURE FRENCH WINE

THE EEC ALLOWS 27 ADDITIVES IN WINE

DRINK DISOS

CAUTION DISOS IS STRONG!
NOT SOLD IN CALAIS
TELL YOUR FRIENDS
NOT SUPPLIED TO LARGE SUPERMARKET OR OFF LICENSE CHAINS
12% NATURAL ALCOHOL

GREAT VALUE - SO PURE

NO LOCAL STOCKIST
ENGLAND BUY A CASE
STATE RED OR WHITE CHEQUE WITH ORDER TO DISOS LTD. **£57**

SW19 NELSON 169 MERTON HIGH ST
N1
INTERNATIONAL CHEESE CENTRES MARYLEBONE STN. THE PDE. VICTORIA STN. WEST MALL LIVERPOOL ST. STN.
E11 WANSTEAD PEACHES 143 HIGH ST
SE1 COOPERS 17 LOWER MARSH
BEXLEYHEATH LE VIGNERON
KINGSTON RIVERSIDE VEGETARIA

SOUTH & EAST
ASHFORD KENT KNOTTS O.L.
BANBURY AREA HOOK NORTON MACE
BASINGSTOKE PRESTON CANDOVER P.O.
BEDS STH. EDELSBOUROUGH NEWS
BISHOPS WALTHAM MASON NEWS & FOOD
BOURNEMOUTH GRAHAMS CHARMINSTER RD
CAMBRIDGE GREAT EVERSDEN P.O.
CHELMSFORD MOULSHAM SUPERSTORES
CHICHESTER AREA COMPTON VILL STRS
CLEY PICNIC FAYRE
COLCHESTER BEER TENT BARRACK ST
COLD NORTON COUNTRY PRODUCE
FORDINGBRIDGE AVON WINE 10 HIGH ST
GODALMING SHACKLEFORD VILL. STRS
HARPENDEN CHEERS 105 LUTON RD
HORSHAM CHEESE 20 CARFAX RD
LYMINGTON PILLEY P.O. STORES
NEWBURY JACKIES 18 BLENHEIM RD
MILTON KEYNES WILLEN LAKERS SMKT
NORWICH EARLHAM OPEN ALL HOURS
OXFORD SELECT & SAVE ABINGDON RD
STANTON ST. JOHN P.O.
READING ENGLEFIELD P.O. STORES
REDHILL LONDIS 63 HORLEY RD
SAWBRIDGEWORTH HIGH WYCH POST OFF.
SEAFORD/PEACEHAVEN ROYS
SOUTHAMPTON SO17 HIGHFIELD P.O.
SOUTHSEA CONVENMKT 95 FAWCETT RD
TONBRIDGE PRIORY WINE CELLARS
WEST WYCOMBE STRS 50 HIGH ST
WICKFORD SHOTGATE O.L. SOUTHEND RD

WEST/MIDS/WALES
BARNSTAPLE BRIAN FORD DISCOUNT
BATH SOUTH TWERTON POST OFF.
BEAMINSTER CRAME'S THE SQUARE
BRISTOL 285 GLOUCESTER RD
CARDIFF ROATH MATTS 116 CLIFTON ST
CHELTENHAM PAMS PANTRY 182 BATH RD
CIRENCESTER BAMFORDS
DERBY K&A NEWS 6 MONK ST
EXETER TOPSHAM NEWS FORE ST/HIGH ST
FALMOUTH AREA CONSTANTINE STRS
LEAMINGTON SPA COUNTRY BUMKINS
LEICS WIGSTON MERCERS WELFORD RD
LINCOLN WHISKY SHOP 87 BAILGATE
NOTTINGHAM BEESTON FOOD & WINE
NUNEATON CHILVERS COMMON P.O.
OSWESTRY ST. MARTINS SAMS
PLYMOUTH AUSTIN FARM STRS
SHIRLEY BERNIES REAL ALE
STAMFORD S/MPOLE-CLARKE ST. PAUL ST
STOKE SPAR 106 HIGH ST TALKE PITS
WESTON SUPER MARE HOPE & ANCHOR

NORTH & SCOTLAND
ASHTON ROGERSONS 48 MKT HALL
BARNOLDSWICK RAINHALL FOOD & WINE
BIRKENSHAW MOON ON A STICK
BRIGHOUSE CZERNIK COMMERCIAL ST
CHORLTON ST. ANNES WINE
DAVENPORT WOODSMOOR POST OFFICE
DIDSBURY CHEESE HAMPER
DONCASTER CARELESS OF FINNINGLEY
DURHAM JOHN OLIVER HAWTHORN TERR.
EDINBURGH EH14 CORKERS
FORNBY WINES DUKE ST
HALE ANNABELLE'S 109 HALE RD
HULL HESSLE 1A WESTBOURNE AV
LEEDS HOULTS CHERRY TREE WALK
LIVERPOOL TEN TO TEN HARDMAN ST
MACCLESFIELD HARVEYS OF HENBURY
MANCHESTER M4 LOVE SAVES THE DAY
MARPLE BARRATTS STOCKPORT RD
ROCHDALE SMITHY BR. LAKE SMKT
SHEFFIELD ARCHER RD BEER SHOP
STIRLING SCOTTS BARNTON ST
STOCKPORT MIDDLE HILLGATE LICD STR
WAKEFIELD BREARLEYS OF STANLEY
WHITEFIELD LEGENDARY LANCS HEROS
WINSFORD 10 O'CLOCK SHOP GLADSTONE ST
WITHINGTON ATULS WILMSLOW RD
YORK HAXBY RD POST OFFICE

U.K. AGENT, TONY BOFFEY, 0161 428 7666.
DISOS LTD., DISOS BUSINESS CENTRE, 50 SPRINGFIELD ROAD, GATLEY SK8 4PF

IT'S DEPRESSING, HOLIDAYS OVER, DARK NIGHTS COMING. CHEER UP - DRINK DISOS!

DRY FRUITY WHITE - SMOOTH STRONG RED

Looking for somewhere to advertise?
Call: 020 7923 5416
Communications Team

jokelines

the Funniest way to wind up a friend!!

Simply call one of the Jokelines .... and then transfer it to a friend and wait for the reaction!

Mr Angry	09067 361605
Tax Inspector	09067 361606
My Daughter's Pregnant	09067 361607
Irate Delivery Driver	09067 361608
Invite to Number 10	09067 361609

Windlines, PO Box 4433 London SW4 OXS
Calls cost £1/min.at all times

PRIVATE EYE SMALLS

Classified Linage Advertisements
£1.75 per word personal, inc. vat
£2.25 per word business, inc. vat
10 WORDS MINIMUM. Border £10, Box Number £8
Communications Team, Exmouth House, 3-11 Pine Street, London EC1R 0JH
DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: Nov 3rd
privateeye@communications-team.co.uk
020 7837 4566

EYE QUOTE

How dare Julie Burchill call alcoholics 'self-pitying drunks'. I have a 'propensity for the drink', and am, in short, a drunk. I am not an alcoholic. Alcoholics have meetings – drunks drink. I hope this clarifies matters.
J. McCULLOUGH
letter to The Guardian

EYE NOVELTIES & CHRISTMAS GIFTS

FRAMED ORIGINAL Number One HIT RECORDS dated the day your Number One was born! £19.95. 0115 9214 734 – www.geocities.com/numberonerecords/

QUALITY CERAMIC GIFTS – www.etruscanfineart.com. SENSIBLE PRICES.

THIS CHRISTMAS don't be persuaded by advertising... purchase the best FOOTBALL STRATEGY GAME in the world on merit! www.bladdergame.com

SUPERB BLAZER BUTTONS: solid brass, hall marked silver, 18 ct gold. Plain, monogrammed, embossed. Brochure: 0800 5971122.

Christmas Present
WITH A DIFFERENCE
WEEKEND SAILING IN THE SOLENT,
between now and June.
Registered sailing school
and professional skipper.
£145 all-inclusive.
Tel or Fax
023 92 735199.
E-mail
info@teamsailing.fsnet.co.uk

CONDOMS – leading brands, unusual flavours, COMEDY SHAPES – www.condomtastic.com

GOTCHA!... personalised spoof FRONT PAGE. Unique gift for special occasions. Quality photo card. TABLOID £39.99 – 0141 6361107.

PERSONALISED CHAMPAGNE
your unique message
printed on the label
delivered NEXTDAY
nationwide
£28
020 7737 8030
www.nextdaychampagne.co.uk

TITLE PLUS LAND for £20. HONEST! Details: SURVIVAL,(P), The Cabin, STRATHY, KW14 7RY

LIMITED EDITION photographic prints. Innovative online gallery displaying works of today's TOP PHOTOGRAPHERS – www.image4is.com

REDHEADS! www.redandproud.com – gifts for the Redhead in your life.

LEGAL TITLES AVAILABLE
Sir, Lord, Baron etc.
ENGLISH MANOR
TITLES
01803 858644.

GIFT VOUCHERS for Flying, Motor Racing, Rallying, Military Vehicles and more. From £59; 250 Locations Nationwide. Free brochure ACORNE SPORTS 01494 880000 www.acorne.co.uk

A PRESENT FOR THAT
CAR FANATIC
BIRTHDAY AUTOCAR
Magazines published the
VERY SAME WEEK
he was born!
Just £16.95 (inc. p&p)
ORDER LINE:
01507 450788

TELL THE WORLD for £20. Moans, announcements, birthdays – www.getitoffmychest.co.uk

HARRISON & SIMMONDS
Online Gentleman's Emporium
Quality gifts
for home and office
www.h-s.co.uk
(01234) 266711

TITLES – LORD, LADY etc. Tel/Fax 0800 652 6641. www.elitetitles.co.uk

BESPOKE CROSSWORDS
Personalised crosswords
for special occasions.
Details from our new number:
01264 355644.

DO YOU KNOW a WANKER? www.insultinggifts.com

LUXURY ORGANIC FOOD AND WINES, HAMPERS, GIFTS.
Ideal for
Anniversaries, Business, Christmas,
Thank you, Treat Yourself.
www.exclusivelyorganic.com
brochure:
0800 328 5637

"WHAT A BRILLIANT SITE!" Shop for fun @ www.gizmoandwidget.com

BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS FREE-PHONE 0800 906609 www.historic-newspapers.co.uk

PHOTOBANNERS
for birthdays, weddings, parties,
exhibitions and displays
0121 241 7878
www.ctgraphics.co.uk

CARICATURES from photographs. Colour £50, Black/White £30 – WENDY 01548 810462.

BALLOON FLIGHTS over London & Home Counties – great gift idea!www.adventureballoons.co.uk – 01252 844222.

www.adventurekit.com
Photon, Sapphire,
Sebertool,
Cybertool, Garmin, Traser etc.

EYE HEAR

70's PARTY? Book "The Best Glam Rock Tribute Band" – call PHIL 020 8892 1280.

EYE SAY

DISPUTES in BRITISH UNIVERSITIES – www.middleages.co.uk

SHARING IS CARING
www.saint-francis.co.uk

SPEECHWRITING by Britain's leading professional, Mitch Murray – see page 30.

POLICE CORRUPTION!
MURDERS!
Astonishing evidence revealed
visit
www.yorkshireripper.co.uk

CORRUPTION and Victims of Masonic Ill-treatment internet site: www.vomit.cc

EYE DRIVE

"I'LL STICK my head in the sand and nobody's going to stop me!" – www.car-recalls.co.uk

FUEL CRISIS
be prepared
FIND THAT FILLING STATION ON
www.mapzit.com

PLEASE IGNORE this address (then I can say "I told you so!") – www.car-recalls.co.uk

CHANGING YOUR CAR?
Find your local
car dealers on
www.mapzit.com

KILL YOURSELF, crash your car. What do I care? – www.car-recalls.co.uk

EYE COLLECT

CHANGING TO DVD?
THINKING OF SELLING YOUR VIDEO COLLECTION?
Allow us to make you a genuine
and realistic offer for all of them.
Please contact our Buying Dept.
01865-361000
Or send your full list to
mail@filmvault.co.uk
or through our website on
www.filmvault.co.uk

EYE SELL

WWW.COMEDYBOOKS.CO.UK – New online seller of vintage BBC audio tapes, videos and books, seeks customers. Log on and have a look around!

WHAT A WASTE of money! No, we don't mean the Dome. We're taking about the amount some people spend elsewhere on hi-fi. RICHER SOUNDS has the best gear at the lowest prices, GUARANTEED. Free catalogue / price list – 0845 1 300 200.

GO TO
www.IANHISLOP.co.uk !

OLD PERSIAN RUGS – Mostly £100-£3,000. Shed not shop, telephone first. DESMOND NORTH, East Peckham, Kent. 01622 871353.

EYE READ

"READERS BE AFRAID – be very afraid" said Press Gazette of "Mr Fear" the horror novel by Alan Cork. It is sick, twisted and frightening but also a pleasure trip. "Mr Fear" is published by Pen Press Publishers, price £5.99, and can be ordered from Watersone's Bookstores; Waterstone's online; amazon.co.uk; and bol.com

OUT OF PRINT BOOKS FOUND – free search. No obligation to purchase – 01376 562334. E-mail: Jeremy.Dore@tesco.net

"THE BEST NOVEL ON THE WEB"
www.plowmanrose.com
MAKE
THE CONNECTION

FREE BOOKSEARCH – no purchase obligation. TWIGGERS BOOKS 020 8878 8644. E-mail twiggers@btinternet.com

MAGAZINES
1000s of UK
and imported magazines
DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR
www.magsuk.com

EYE BUYS

PRIVATE EYES for sale: Numbers 70, 79, 255, 259, 260, 262, 263, 268, 276-1010 inclusive. Ring 00353-1-8310894.

OLD EYES numbers 3, 9, 13 through to 65, and 112 copies between numbers 65 to to 373, including 208 with 7" disc. Offers – 07967 051651.

FOR SALE BY AUCTION
(November 9th)
PRIVATE EYES
Numbers
1-12, 14-26, 48-90
and later.
Contact:
Greenslade Taylor Hunt, Taunton
01823 332525

126 EYES – 215 to 832. DIGGERS, OLDIES. Private clearout. 01543 574573.

EYES – LAST 520. Offers 01892 782860.

EYE WANT

ARTISTIC YOUNG MALE wishing to pursue a career in the art world. Any suggestions? Offers? Contacts? artistic100@hotmail.com

ANYONE KNOW AN OLD GIT?
Do any of the following sound familiar?
"This country is going
down the pan!"
"Things were so much better in MY day!"
"My kids won't be getting their
grubby mitts on my cash!"
We're looking for
OPINIONATED
AND CANTANKEROUS OVER 60's
for a forthcoming
MEDIA PROJECT.
IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE YOU
OR ANYONE YOU KNOW
please contact
NIC GUTTRIDGE or
ALISON RAMSAY
on
0113 222 8350.

ABSENCE OF JUSTICE? Lawyer and journalist wanted to remedy and expose civil miscarriage. Urgent please. Box 0514.

EXPERT ADVICE NEEDED
to prepare judiciary review
application (oral)
for prisoner without legal aid.
Telephone:
020 8690 2778.

ATM/CASH MACHINES
Small shopkeeper tackling
Big Bank
needs factual current statistics
and financial information.
David v. Goliath.
THANKS.
Box 0114.

EYE HOMES

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE – Stone Cottage, two beds, 80ft garden, views over hills, village, shops, station. £79,000. Tel: 07951 214050 – E-mail: bbarker@lycos.co.uk

EYE CARE

WANT TO LOSE WEIGHT? Losing your hair? Act now! – www.abcpills.com

IMPOTENCE.
UNDERSTANDING, ADVICE
AND TREATMENT
from qualified doctor.
07977 172754
williams.medical@virgin.net

STOP SMOKING – guaranteed. One session, hypnotherapy. 020 7357 9905 (London Bridge).

VARICOSE VEINS? Latest theories and treatments – www.veins.co.uk

VERY LATEST WONDER DRUGS,
Impotency, baldness, slimming.
Discreet, secure
home delivery.
INFORMATION PACK
Tel: 020 8387 8378 (24hr)

HYPNOTHERAPY WORKS! come and see Jessica Richards in Harley St; London Medical Centre 020 7935 0023 – richjess@globalnet.co.uk

VIAGRA® NATURAL ALTERNATIVE.
Developed by the
Institute for Advanced Study
of Human Sexuality.
VIGOREX
(for Men £29.95 Women £24.95)
one month's supply
Chq/PO Marshella Int'l Marketing Ltd
PO Box 4306, Bournemouth BH9 1ZW
Call: 01202 511541.

'ERECTION CORRECTION' – VIR Clinics offer all effective treatments. 0800 163861 or www.vir-clinics.com

EYE TECH

TONYSCRONIES.CO.UK – DOMAIN FOR SALE. Email Bernie or Richard at abhtown@hotmail.com or call 015396 20204. Best offer secures.

TOP LEVEL domain names available: Visually strong & memorable: Visit www.ForSaleNowww.com

cheapdiesel.co.uk
DOMAIN NAMES FOR SALE.
Huge potential.
Reasonable offers.
Visit the site or E-mail:
info@cheapdiesel.co.uk

COMPUTER TROUBLE? Let a genuine PC expert help you with advice, installation, setup, programming and trouble-shooting – and save yourself some big headaches. Call TOBY on 020 7229 3001 for friendly, professional advice.

PRINTER CONSUMABLES
UK's best deals on
Inkjet Cartridges
Toner Cartridges
FREE DELIVERY
www.4rst.com
Tel: 0800 917 4073
Fax: 0800 917 4074

NEED A WEBSITE? Don't get ripped off by teenage techies. Try – www.4dmedia.co.uk on 0870-345 0444.

GO TO
www.IANHISLOP.co.uk !

REGISTER
.co.uk domain names
for £10
and
.com names
for £18
for more details visit
http://www.a-q.co.uk
or Tel
0800 389 5815

DOMAIN NAMES FOR SALE
www.fatherclickmas.com
www.fatherclickmouse.com
Fat Cat offers invited:
roddity@hotmail.com

EYE HELP

YOUR AUTOBIOGRAPHY ghostwritten by experienced writer/editor. Websites, books, reports rewritten and proofread. Specialities: politics, history, military, science, medicine. E-mail: andy.opp@virgin.net

SPECIAL PAINT FINISHING – stencilling, rag-rolling, marbling, crackle-glazing, decoupage, etc. Demonstrations, workshops and commissions undertaken. Contact 07747 121118.

Pensions Websites
EARLY-RETIREMENT.co.uk
PENSIONTRANSFER.co.uk
COMPANYPENSION.co.uk
DIRECTORS-PENSIONS.co.uk
PENSION-CASH.co.uk
PHASED-RETIREMENT.co.uk

IN DEBT? DAVID & CO. LTD – 08000 4 D.E.B.T.S. (33287) – or www.david-and.co.uk

THINK INC. We solve unusual problems. Absolute discretion assured. PO Box 25856, London N5 1ZT. think_inc@hotmail.com

PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE CLAIMS?
Lost out due to
bad advice?
WHY DON'T YOU SUE
YOUR ADVISER?
Contact:
Gorvin Smith Fort Solicitors
and we'll do it for you
FREEFONE 0800 214531
or
E-mail
enquiries@gorvin.co.uk

LIMITED OR PLC COMPANIES, £90. Brochure: FREEPHONE 0800 526421, E-mail: cosun@drink.demon.co.uk

WHERE YOU FIND what you need – easily www.wherewhatweb.co.uk

BANKRUPTCY ASSOCIATION.
Debt problems?
Help available.
01524 64305
www.theba.org.uk

SPEECHWRITING by Britain's leading professional, Mitch Murray – see page 30.

ACCOMMODATION ADDRESS
PRIVATE,
DISCREET,
CONFIDENTIAL
mail/message-holding service.
REGENT STREET
Established 1979
020 7580 4242.
email: hold-everything.com
www.hold-everything.com

CONFIDENTIAL MAILING address – interesting range low-profile privacy related services and products. 020 8556 2979 for brochure.

EYE DETECT

DO YOU TRUST your partner? Are they faithful? Contact us for a confidential and discrete male / female investigation service. 01625 252182.

BUGGING DEVICE transmits to FM radio. £9.95 – Cheques/Visa: MICROTEC, Chestnut Road, Guildford, GU1 1HG – 01483 570417. www.spys.co.uk

UK PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS
Private & Commercial
Investigations
0800 980 2792
Matrimonial Services
Surveillance – Tracing
International Service
Pre-employment Screening
DISCREET
& EFFECTIVE
www.ukprivateinvestigators.com
globalpi@lineone.net

SPECIALIST ANTI-SURVEILLANCE – de-bugging – security reviews – investigations. Total discretion 020 8665 5646; 0956 525712.

EYE LEARN

RUSSIAN MADE SIMPLE – outstanding results. First session free – 07760 398101 (London).

CARTOONING "GNOME" study course with EYE cartoonists. For prospectus – 01785 250 700. E-mail: cartoonists@cartoon.co.uk

UNIVERSITY DEGREES Accredited, fully checkable, Life qualified. 0161 795 3056 – Universitydegree@aol.com

PLAY SAXOPHONE! £99 for three months rental. Complete with Tuition Video or Jazz Method Tutor. Free information pack – 01435 866688 or www.saxophones.co.uk

EYE NEED

DESPERATE. £700 will save our much loved family car from the scrapyard. Please help. 60-02-38, 50620746.

TRANSATLANTIC LIFT on private jet sought by quiet widow, 62, wishing to visit old friends early 2001. Box 2214.

DIVORCED DAD – squeezed dry by ex and lawyers, still wondering what went wrong, desperate for £6,000 to keep up struggle to see children while avoiding IVA or bankruptcy. Any little would help. Please. HSBC 40-47-87, 60164194.

VERY SCARED, very worried. Very in debt. Lessons learnt. Please help. Thankyou. Alliance & Leicester A/C No 00000000205L9385067, Sort Code 72-58-10.

DEPRESSED ANOREXIC couple face eviction. Need £15000 urgently. Please help. Box 2114.

ILL CHILD needs £65,000 for operation in America – desperate need of help. All donations are appreciated. Abbey National 48013735, 09-01-26.

MIXED RELIGION Belfast family. Suffering sectarian harassment. Need £20,000 urgently to move. Abbey 09-01-26, 03752015. Thanks.

S/E HAULIER – struggling with five children and one on way. £2,200.00 in debt – soon to lose business. Please help, genuine people only – 771730-33157668 TSB Thank you.

£60-100,000 NEEDED for holistic health/calm centre/superstore, Glasgow. Possible investment S/C 83-21-08, A/C 00240728. Box 1711.

BROKE, AMBITIOUS student needs £15,000 for law school fees, books and living expenses. Please help. Many thanks. Barclays Sort-code 20-97-58, A/C 20090875.

AFTER SEVERAL YEARS work with dysfunctional people, female, 35, needs £2,000 for completion training as psychotherapist. Thank you. HSBC 40-14-03, 01763229.

FEMALE PhD – severe depression, unable to work. Desperate. Needs £15,000 to meet obligations. Grateful forever. Lloyds/TSB account no. 1794171, sort code 30-16-41.

C.£1,300 EQUALS SOCRATES exchange to Milan – 30-90-87, 00086915.

KEPT MAN, father of 2, left by wife for older, uglier bastard. She says I should get a job! Please give generously. (I'm a nice bloke – everyone says so). Nationwide B/S Sort: 070116. Account: 17804670.

GETTING OLDER AND GREYER
working my life away.
Want to enjoy fine wine,
women and travel
before I'm past it.
Natwest 53-70-11, 96546301
PLEASE
SEND THOUSANDS.
Every bit will help me enjoy life.

IT'S WORSE THAN EVER – please help desperate farmer reduced to this for winter survival. TSB 77-63-12, Account 90212768.

POSTGRADUATE desperately short for the sixth and final years study. Please help. Any amount appreciated. Lloyds/TSB 30-94-44, 1857157. THANKS!

ARTIST with wonderful skills (except money) requires £20k to start anew. Box 2714.

FINANCIAL HELP needed to keep family and house together. £10,000 debt to clear. Any help gratefully appreciated. s/c 30-96-85 a/c 0485244

GOD GAVE SON fine mind, but no fingers. Dad has residency order but no money. University education son's only hope. Please help. Nationwide Sort/Code 07-00-30, A/C 62257907.

EYE FINANCE

URGENT – ORIGINAL FEATURE requires final development funding £15-30,000. Global potential, award winning talent. Website at www.animaproductions.co.uk – Call 020 8347 8855.

SMALL COMPANY
has unique
CONSUMER ELECTRONICS
BROKERING OPPORTUNITY.
Suppliers and buyers
are pre-arranged for goods
valued between £2M and £4M.
Profit per consignment between
£50K and £200K.
Original purchase to final sale
maximum 10 days.
Up to 1 consignment per week.
50% of profit and full control
offered in exchange for funding.
Experience in LC's and BCL's
would be helpful.
Call
SEAN
on 020 8581 0000
or
MARTIN
on
01455 617666
for further details.

EYE WORK

PROFESSIONAL FEMALE, 34, experienced in conference organisation and publicity, seeks challenging and stimulating employment in voluntary sector. Bright and degree educated – 020 8374 6341.

http://www.eyespyemma.athome.to – Politically Incorrect Eye-catching Australian ingenue seeks ministerial position.

EYE JOBS

LINGUISTIC GYMNASTICS – brand name agency is looking for ad hoc contributors to name generation sessions (evenings). Classical and Romance language knowledge a major benefit. Call Paul on 020 7828 5333 or send your profile/linguistic background to – mail@wrenrowe.co.uk

SHOW OVERSEAS VISITORS AROUND THE UK AND CONTINENT
AS A MINI-BUS DRIVER/GUIDE.
Work available for both 'hobby' guides
and those who want extended seasonal
employment.
No previous tourism
experience necessary,
or age limit,
but must be well-educated,
people-orientated,
love European cultures.
PVC driving license an advantage
but subsidised training programme
run over winter.
Languages an advantage.
FOR FURTHER INFO
VISIT OUR WEB SITE:
www.backroadstouring.co.uk
or call
HEATHER
on
020 8566 5312.

EYE EARN

DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED for natural health products. Investment from £10. FREEFONE 08000 741572 – www.theduplicator.com/vip.cgi/besthealth

TV/FILM EXTRAS WANTED
(regardless of age, sex or looks)
OPPORTUNITIES NATIONWIDE.
No experience required.
FULL OR PART TIME
Excellent rates of pay.
Enclose two first class stamps for details.
TV/FILM EXTRAS
26 Trafalgar Street,
Ashton Under Lyne, OL7 0EX.

WORK FROM HOME with your computer! $1,500 to $7,500 Part-time! – http://www.esuccessathome.cc

WANT TO WIN THE LOTTERY?
then see our website!
www.lotteryballs.net

EYE SKI

COURCHEVEL – LUXURY CHALET, fully catered, 7 bedrooms, ensuite available. 0141 339 1290 – www.tangerineski.com

EYE ESCAPE

SAIL THROUGHOUT THE WINTER in the warm sun. RYA courses or just for fun. English speaking, close, affordable – www.straits-sail.com

VILLAS NICOLAS,
COSTA RICA
SET IN A TERRACED JUNGLE
WITH COMMANDING VIEWS
OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN,
this collection of 12
one and two bedroom suites
offers the perfect balance
between intimacy, location
and simple amenities.
All suites are fully furnished,
many with kitchens,
and share a large swimming pool,
Jacuzzi and lush tropical garden.
MANUEL ANTONIO/QUEPOS,
Costa Rica.
Tel (506) 777-0481
Fax (506) 777-0451
www.villasnicolas.com
E-mail – sales@villasnicolas.com

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES... based at a pub! White water rafting, etc – www.theberwyn.co.uk Tel: 01490 430210.

NEW YORK! Friendly hotel alternatives: private B&Bs and apartments. Safe/central. www.westvillagebb.com, tel: (212) 614-3034, UK fax: 0845 127 4464.

EYE FLY

WORLDWIDE LOWEST prices – allegedly! Tel: 01942 603599 / 680268. Agents ATOL holders – www.gl-flights.com

FLIGHT OPTIONS – telephone booking service. Tel: 01432 851062, Fax: 01432 850722, HENRY ROGERS, ATOL 3793.

EYE LET

IDYLLIC BEACHSIDE bungalow (sleeps 8) – Dingle, Ring of Kerry. Perfect for writing, retreating, rehearsing, or just lazing about! 01732 359458.

SOMERSET.
Cosy holiday cottage
with central-heating and open fires
overlooking GLASTONBURY Abbey,
Sleeps 3 – £150 per week.
New Year week still available
Phone 01234 211606 or
E-mail: AbbeyGlast@aol.com
for Brochure.

EYE CONTACT

LADIES IN WAITING just 'DINING' to meet you! Black tie balls, dinner parties, skiing, foreign travel and sporting events. Tel: 07000 785303 – dinnerdates.com

CONTACT ATTRACTIVE, educated ladies with a traditional view of marriage. Visits/holidays also arranged Russia, Latvia & Kazakhstan via ETHOS RUSSIAN INTRODUCTIONS, a personal, reputable service. Phone Roma 01424 426185 or 443740.

'ADULT CHATLINE'
Girls 18+, Women online,
60p/min, jcg, tn21 8xz,
0906 361 1685

MAKE INTERESTING new friends UK/WORLDWIDE. Free details. DESTINY HEART (Dept PE) PO Box 10, Leeds, LS12 1YZ.

SUMAN MARRIAGE Bureau. Established 1972, members ABIA. Telephone No. 020 8571 5145 / www.s-m-b.com

THE EROTIC SCRIBES CLUB
GROWING ALL THE TIME
The very best adult pen-pal club
s.a.e.
PO Box 194
Newcastle on Tyne NE3 1FP

CONTACT MAG for adults: over 900 photos. APPROVAL copy from: MATCH-MAKER, (S.76), Chorley, PR7 4BS. Or ring: 01257 480155 (24 hours).

THAI LADIES SEEK MARRIAGE – Superb videos. Colour brochure SIAM INTRODUCTIONS (established 14 years) – 01689 860880. www.siam-intro.com

RUSSIAN LADIES
beautiful, sincere,
GENUINELY SEEKING
MARRIAGE
Personal Introduction Service
OLGA EDWARDS,
PO Box 56, Hyde, Cheshire.
0161 355 6841
(24 hrs).

ADDITIONS – 'ATTACHED' Discreet Loving Agency for married people. 020 8905 3304, 020 8958 9657. Established 1992.

YOUNG LADIES worldwide seek penpals, friends, lifemates. Free details, photos! HERMES, Box 610188/S, 10922 Berlin, Germany. Fax: 0049 30 25299775.

HARMONY PARTNERS
Where men and women can chat
1-2-1
0906 752 6299
Calls cost 75p/min
PO Box 20025,
London NW2 4ZL
www.harmonypartners.co.uk

THAI CONNECTION – 600 marriages, 8 hours video, £15. 43 Trowbridge Gardens, LU2 7JY. Brochure: 01582 481725.

HEDONISM PARTIES. Adult Clubnights. Holidays. Attractive, uninhibited, funloving party animals. Couples, singles. S.A.E. Box 24405 London W5 5ZE. 09099 100185 (75p/min) – www.hedonism.org.uk

RUSSIAN LADIES seek relationship / MARRIAGE. Meet many Russian ladies in Britain. Cheap Moscow trips. Unlimited introductions. Excellent success rate. Phone IFM 01708 478697 anytime.

RESPECTABLE SINCERE marriage-minded Thai ladies seek like-minded gentlemen. Free brochure. T.P.I. 01562 748600 (24hrs). www.thai-professional.com

SECRET PENPALS club. UK/International, adults only. Safe and secure letters exchange for the discreet and cautious. 3x27p stamps to EPPS, PO Box 36, Dartford, DA2 7ZU.

PLUMP PARTNERS – National Dating Agency. Plump yourself or happy to meet someone who is? Ring 01352 715909.

ATTACHED? Seeking romance? Call David at LOVING LINKS 020 7602 8727. Info line 0906 550 1361 (£1 per/min) – www.lovinglinks.co.uk.

EYE LOVE

LADY DOCTOR, 40's – slim, petite – seeks intelligent, definitely unattached man, for exciting times, gentle adventure and possible L.T.R. London/South West. Please write with photo to Box 0414.

AGILE ACTIVIST (Development/Environment) seeks lively lad, 49-59, N/S, London/Cambridge – for walking/talking and laughter au lit. Photo/phone please. Box 0914.

BRITTANY TO THE BALKANS, Lamorna to Lands End. Just seeking someone brilliant to love, that's all. M, 50, literate, aware own frailties, going batty trying to look after disab wife. Able to get away for weeks plus shortly. Suit bluestocking genius with gypsy heart? Pls write. Know you're there. Love you already. Box 1214.

51 YEAR OLD GENTLEMAN
ex-music business, now retired
6ft 1 1/4 ins. Big build,
blond and grey hair.
30 years vegetarian – no fish!
Non drinker.
Works out at gym
5 days per week
after all that, smokes regularly.
Mad about animals
especially his cat!
Loves looking at paintings
Art Deco and various antiques.
Likes music, Stereophonics,
Macy Gray, Lou Reed,
Leonard Cohen, Italian Opera.
Eats out all the time,
frequent trips to Cornwall.
Seems to go for the younger
woman but open to suggestions!
Photo please.
BOX 0614.

OUTGOING, SOCIABLE, warm, attractive professional woman , 52, enjoys outdoors, arts, lively conversation and ideas. Seeks male companion to share enthusiasms with. Bristol area. Box 1314.

EROTICALLY submissive man, usual fetishes, unusual mind, seeks assertive woman, also with unusual mind, for amazing sex and intelligent other times as well. archie203@hotmail.com – or Box 0714.

GREATER MANCHESTER. Tall male graduate, 65, seeks humorous easygoing female companion for walks, talks, theatrical experiences. Box 1714.

SUCCESSFUL DECENT chap with 34/36D vision, easy going, tall, blond, fit, 48 lives Knightsbridge – seeks attractive well endowed, happy young woman for fun, romance – hopefully more. Photo please. Box 1814.

THE BEST SEX is extra-marital. Ladies who say aye, to the write Box 1114.

PERSONABLE LADY, 50's seeks T.L.C and intellectual conversation from non smoking, social drinker of substance. Box 2014.

ADVENTUROUS ATHLETIC 41 year old creative male in soulless relationship seeks attractive lady for romantic trysts. E-mail: WSC_1@hotmail.com Box 1914.

ATTRACTIVE RUSSIAN lady, 41, child psychologist, loves laughter, seeks, independent intellectual, 40-55, into arts, social awareness, the environment – for love and family life. Box 2814.

MAN 36 seeks sugar woman from 35 to 65 years for sex. Kent London. Box 0214.

BEAUTY W/ BRAINS. American woman, 38, wants to meet dashing gent for daring discreet dates. Over 40 please. Box 3214.

VERY ATTRACTIVE, warm, creative, professional woman; 43, (one child) seeks sparring partner friend and lover – ideally in the same man. Oxford. Box 1014.

THEATRE LOVING man wanted for plays and play by early 40's divorced working mother. North London area. Box 2314.

PRETTY BRUNETTE, slim 30's seeks attractive, interesting man for fun and friendship. Tel: 07931 987272.

NEW INSTRUCTION – 1963 period detached property near Oxford in excellent decorative order. Versatile accommodation with many potential uses. Would suit single woman. No chains, no dogs, no DHSS. Box 2514.

IRISH MAN 41, attached, good looking, slim, with dark hair, easy going character – seeks female with kind heart and sense humour for discreet relationship. Box 0814.

WOULDN'T IT be nice? Tall, attractive brunette who is warm, amusing, late thirties and open to suggestions – preferably from London-based, 40-something men. But all things considered. Box 2614.

SLEEK CLASSIC model – late 40's vintage in immaculate condition; left pining in garage by older husband having lost his licence – seeks skilled technician for periodic servicing and occasional wild rides. Westcountry. Reply to kestor77@hotmail.com

SUPER CHAP,
35, attached,
seeks similar female
for lots of fun
superchap2000@hotmail.com

TALL ATTRACTIVE London-based woman seeks civilised man, 65+, interested in people, the arts and life generally, for stimulating uncomplicated friendship. Box 2914.

EXCEPTIONAL MALE, 6ft 2",39, Attractive, "well built", WLTM bored married/single female – for discreet adventures!! East Midlands. BOX 1614.

HERE COMES WINTER – snuggle together? Sweethearted woman, 38, likes loving and laughing (in and out of bed), wltm tall, strong, caring gentleman craving confidante/mistress for LTR. Only intelligent successful professional need apply. London 3114.

DO YOU ENJOY country walks with dogs, relaxing by blazing log fires, going to the theatre? Our client, herself professionally qualified and financially secure, seeks a good-natured, unpretentious male companion in the Harrogate area. Although there are no fees for introducing you to our client, you must be prepared to establish your credentials before meeting this attractive fair-haired lady. Please contact Jan Laine, THE STERLING PARTNERSHIP, on 0800 970 7846, www.SterlingPartnership.com.

RUGGED, INTELLECTUAL man, 32, tall and successful, loosely attached at present – but seeking intelligent, slim, busty woman for lasting love. Please send photo. HOTMALEDATE@HOTMAIL.COM or Box 3414.

ACTUARY SOUGHT by unattached, blue-eyed, very attractive 44 year old lady. Discretion assured. E.Sx. Box 3514.

BRA WEARING Charlie Dimmock lookalike, professional 35, seeks down to earth fun professional male. Likes music, bands, DIY, staying in/going out. Looking for longterm friendship, possibly more. London area, serious responses only. Box 3314.

EYE-COMPANY

WONDERFULLY EXCITING opportunity for adventurous girl to accompany gentleman – tall, landed, almost honourable, kind and great fun – to Africa/India. Taking in Mauritius/Seychelles, in Jan/Feb. Although travelling comfortably, must not be afraid to sleep under stars. Under 40. Box 1414.

VALID TILL 30th November 2000

MILLÉSIMA

Votre négociant à Bordeaux

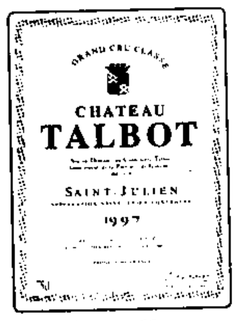
Your Bordeaux wine merchant

Ch. d'Issan
Margaux - 3e cru classé

❤ 1997 Ⓜ £ 210
1996 Ⓜ £ 260
1995 Ⓜ £ 240
1994 £ 220
❤ 1993 Ⓜ £ 220

Ch. Giscours
Margaux - 3e cru classé

❤ 1997 Ⓜ £ 220
1996 Ⓜ £ 260
1995 Ⓜ £ 240
1990 Ⓜ £ 530
1989 Ⓜ £ 490



Ch. Talbot
Saint-Julien - 4e cru classé

❤ 1997 Ⓜ £ 270
1996 £ 340
❤ 1995 £ 320
1994 Ⓜ £ 300
1993 Ⓜ £ 300
1990 £ 530
1989 £ 560

Ch. Beychevelle
Saint-Julien - 4e cru classé

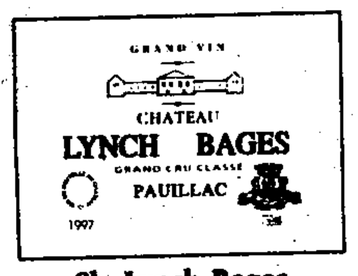
❤ 1997 Ⓜ £ 270
1996 Ⓜ £ 340
1995 Ⓜ £ 320
1994 Ⓜ £ 300
❤ 1993 Ⓜ £ 300
1992 Ⓜ £ 270

Ch. Gloria
Saint-Julien - Cru bourgeois

1997 Ⓜ £ 230
1996 Ⓜ £ 250
❤ 1995 Ⓜ £ 230
1994 £ 210
1993 Ⓜ £ 200

Ch. Pontet-Canet
Pauillac - 5e cru classé

❤ 1997 Ⓜ £ 280
1996 Ⓜ £ 390
❤ 1995 Ⓜ £ 390
1994 Ⓜ £ 300
1993 Ⓜ £ 270
1989 £ 510



Ch. Lynch-Bages
Pauillac - 5e cru classé

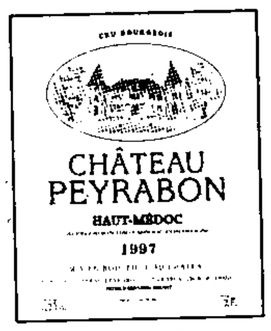
1997 Ⓜ £ 450
1996 Ⓜ £ 470
1995 Ⓜ £ 440
1994 £ 350
1993 Ⓜ £ 350

Ch. Les Ormes de Pez
Saint-Estèphe - Cru bourgeois

❤ 1997 Ⓜ £ 190
1996 £ 230
1995 Ⓜ £ 220
1994 Ⓜ £ 210
❤ 1993 Ⓜ £ 210

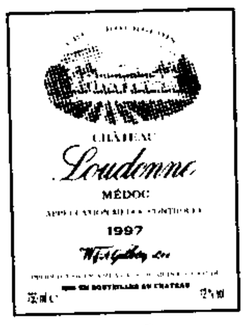
Ch. Cantemerle
Haut-Médoc - 5e cru classé

1997 Ⓜ £ 190
1996 Ⓜ £ 230
1995 Ⓜ £ 210



Ch. Peyrabon
Haut-Médoc - Cru bourgeois

❤ 1997 Ⓜ £ 130
❤ 1996 £ 160



Ch. Loudenne
Médoc - Cru bourgeois

❤ 1997 Ⓜ £ 140
❤ 1996 Ⓜ £ 170

Ch. Chasse-Spleen
Moulis - Cru bourgeois

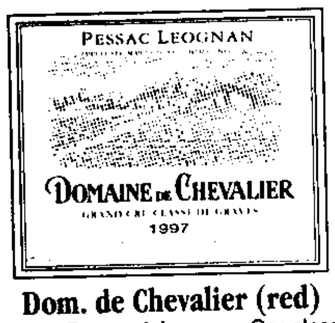
1997 Ⓜ £ 200
1996 £ 250
1994 £ 220
1993 Ⓜ £ 200

Ch. de Sales
Pomerol

❤ 1997 Ⓜ £ 180
1996 Ⓜ £ 220
1995 £ 220
❤ 1994 Ⓜ £ 200
❤ 1993 Ⓜ £ 190

Ch. La Gaffelière
Saint-Emilion - 1er grand cru classé B

1997 Ⓜ £ 340
❤ 1996 Ⓜ £ 360
1995 Ⓜ £ 360
1994 Ⓜ £ 280
1993 Ⓜ £ 340



Dom. de Chevalier (red)
Graves Pessac Léognan - Cru classé

1997 Ⓜ £ 330
1996 Ⓜ £ 370
1994 Ⓜ £ 270
1993 Ⓜ £ 260
❤ 1992 Ⓜ £ 240
1990 £ 690
1989 Ⓜ £ 690

Ch. Latour Martillac (white)
Graves Pessac Léognan - Cru classé

1997 £ 200
1996 £ 240
1995 £ 220
1994 £ 210
❤❤ 1993 £ 200
1990 £ 320

Ch. Smith Haut Lafitte (white)
Graves Pessac Léognan

1996 £ 310
❤❤ 1995 £ 290
1994 £ 330

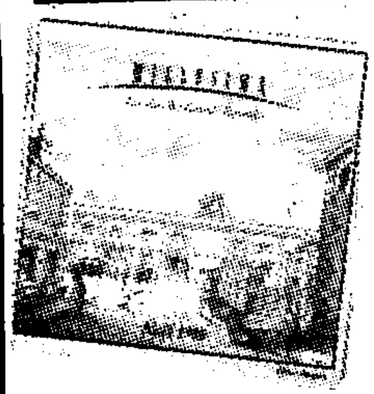
Ch. Suduiraut
Sauternes - 1er cru classé

1997 £ 370
1996 £ 290
❤❤ 1990 £ 390

❤❤ : *Our "favourite wines" -10% discount per 2 cases or more*
❤ : *Our "favourite wines" -10% discount per 3 cases or more*

Price in £ inc. VAT duty paid for a 12 bottle case

Ⓜ *signifies that the wines are also available in cases of 6 magnums, for the same price as 12 bottles.*



Our 2000 Catalogue and En-Primeur offer:

Please do not hesitate to contact us for our latest catalogue and En-Primeur offer. You will find in our free catalogue, Bordeaux finest 100 Crus Classés wines from 1970 to 1998 (1500 references, 2 000 000 bottles in stock).

Terms and conditions for the UK:

Prices are valid till 30th November 2000. All wines are delivered in original wooden cases. Our prices include VAT and duties. Delivery to one address in the UK is free for orders over £500. For orders of less than £500, a charge of £20 will be made for transport and insurance. For deliveries outside the UK, please contact us for a quote.

The catalogue exists in the following currencies: France (FF), UK (GBP), Ireland (IEP), Germany (DEM), Austria (ATS), Switzerland (CHF), Portugal (PTE), Belgium (BEF)

We speak English, German, Portuguese and French !

FAX : 00 33 557 808 819

FREE-PHONE NUMBERS
00800 B O R D E A U X
(00800 2 6 7 3 3 2 8 9)
or 0800 917 0352

www.millesima.com
millesima@millesima.com

GJCAT 00.13a - GPRIV4

Return to: MILLÉSIMA
87, quai de Paludate - B.P. 89 - 33038 BORDEAUX Cedex - FRANCE

Surname: .....

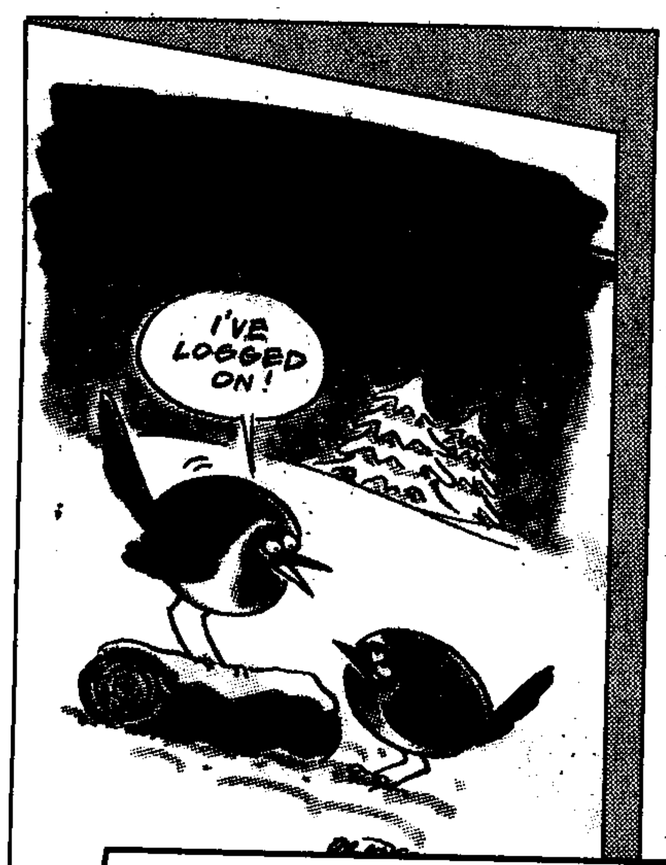
Forename: .....

Address: .....

..... County: .....

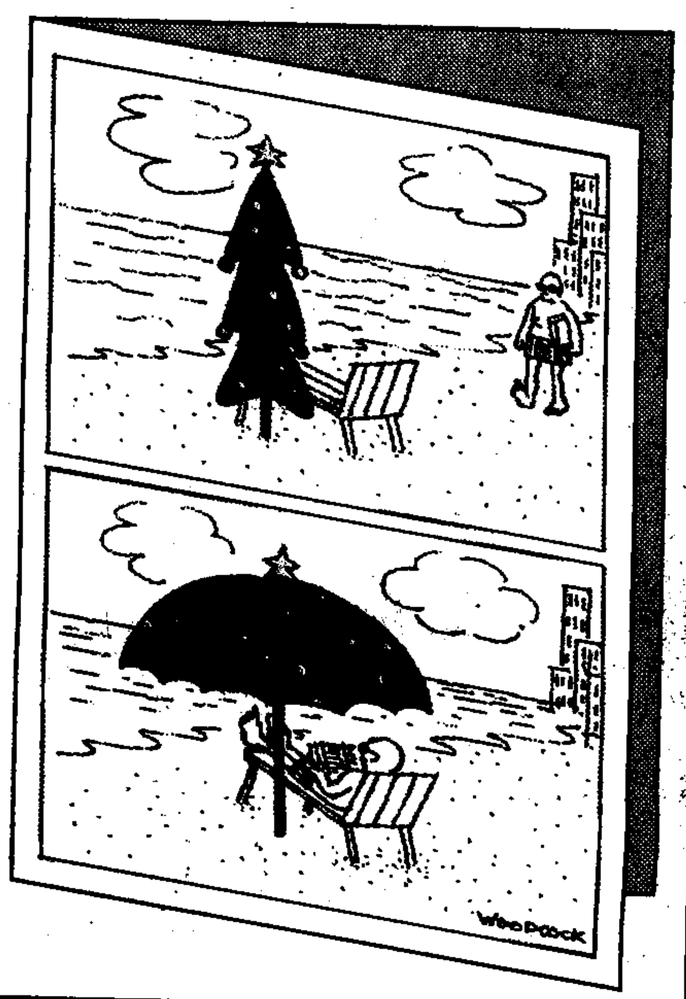
Postcode ..... Tel/Fax/E-mail: .....

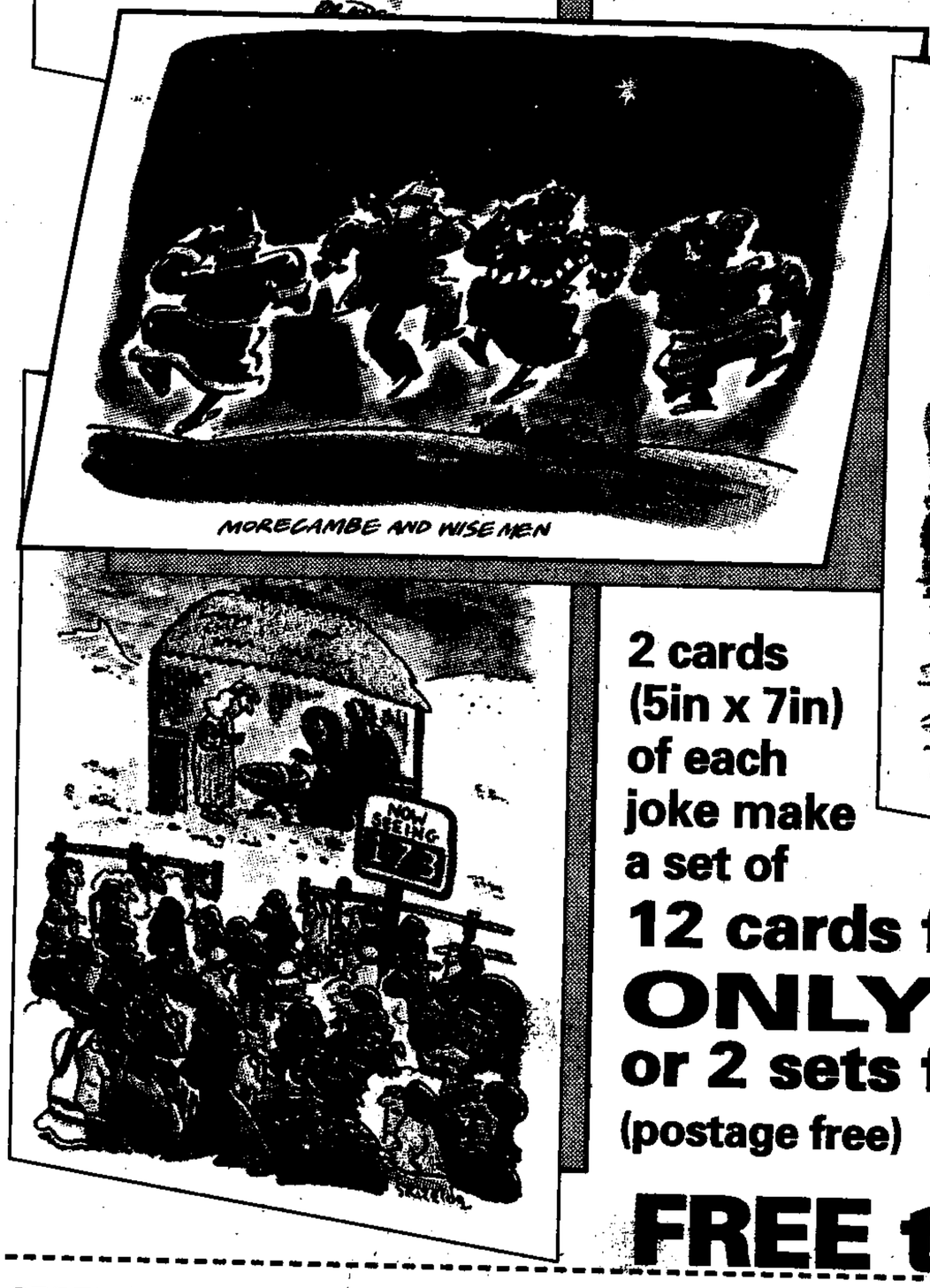
☐ *Please send me your 99 En-Primeur offer and your free Catalogue*



PRIVATE EYE'S
Very Own Christmas Cards
are available now
(using the order form below)

6 cartoon cards by 'Eye' cartoonists: de la Nougerede, Dredge (2), Grizelda, Larry and Woodcock.
And this year they are in **FULL COLOUR**





2 cards (5in x 7in) of each joke make a set of
12 cards for
ONLY £8
or 2 sets for £14
(postage free)

FREE to NEW SUBSCRIBERS

ORDER FORM – CHRISTMAS CARDS ONLY
PRIVATE EYE CHRISTMAS CARDS,
Mortimer House, 230/236 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1LE
CARDS SENT BY RETURN OF POST
Please send me:
❒ 1 set of Christmas cards @ £8 *or*
❒ **2 sets for £14 (additional sets £7) – no postage needed**
Number of sets ..... Total enclosed £ .....
(cheques payable to PRIVATE EYE)
OR by ACCESS/VISA Expiry date .....
Number .....
Name (please print) .....
Address (please print) .....
.....
..... postcode .....

or DIAL-A-CARD JUST PHONE (24HRS) 020 7223 8193

ORDER FORM – FREE CARDS FOR NEW SUBSCRIBERS
PRIVATE EYE SUBS/CARDS, Mortimer House, 230/236 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1LE
❒ I enclose £19 *(cheques payable to PRIVATE EYE, for overseas rates see page 5)*
❒ or by MASTERCARD/VISA Expiry date .....
Number .....
(Please indicate which is cardholder's name & address)
Please send PRIVATE EYE for one year to:
Name (please print) .....
Address (please print) .....
.....
..... postcode .....
Please send FREE CHRISTMAS CARDS to:
Name (please print) .....
Address (please print) .....
.....
postcode .....
Please start subscription with:
❒ Next available issue
❒ The 15 December issue (Christmas issue)
❒ The 29 December issue

or DIAL-A-SUB JUST PHONE (24HRS) 020 7228 0425/6457 020 7738 1249

Published by Pressdram Ltd, 6 Carlisle St, London W1D 3BN. 020 7437 4017. Printed by East End Offset Ltd, Empson St, London E3 3LT. Distributed by P. E. Distribution Ltd, Mortimer Hse, 230/236 Lavender Hill, SW11 1LE. 020 7223 997